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The History and Genealogy of the Cummins Family Their Ancestors, Descendants and Experiences

By

NORA B. CUMMINS

Seattle, Washington

1958

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Nora B. Cummins
June 23, 1959

FOREWORD

The preparation of this narrative has been prompted by a desire to give the present generation of the Cummins family information about their ancestors and to preserve the same to posterity.

Much has been written in the first person due to the personal contacts which I have had over the years with individuals possessed with important information. Moreover, the work involved, including searching of records, correspondence, reading of material in libraries and public offices etc. has been of such a character that I have had to do much of it in person. Many sources of information have been made available to me, and I have had the cooperation of many research workers throughout the United States and Canada. Much help has come from aunt Ada, aunt Clara, cousins Viola Higbie, Vern Shoesmith, Doctor Kirk Seaton and Clyde Skinner which is gratefully acknowledged. Mrs. Fanny Dunn, daughter of Breton Spalding, Frances Wood Pratt and Gladys Green have helped with the genealogy of the Dickerson family. Aunt Stella, aunt Bessie, cousin Flora Jacklin and the Belman family Bible have helped with the Belman story. Cousins Isabella and Charlotte and articles written about the Sabine family which appeared in one of the Detroit, Michigan papers in 1897 furnished the information about the Sabines.

Our family visit in Michigan in 1888-89 gave me a chance to see many of the older generations which makes it easy for me to write something about them.

Mrs. Bessie McKinnon Jensen helped with the Dakota story. My sister Grace has been of much assistance to me in the preparation of the copy.

My brother Carl has read the manuscript with great care and has made very valuable suggestions as to organization and arrangement of materials.

Due to the many sources of information and the cooperation of many people, it is impossible for me to make specific reference to all of them, but I do make wholeheartedly an acknowledgment of their help.

While this effort is in some respects incomplete due to inadequate source material, it is my thought that present available information should be put

in permanent form. It has been well said: "Time lays waste the chronicles of men hence the importance of collecting early family records and preventing their irretrievable loss through the ravages of the years." I am hopeful that the work begun by me may be continued by the present and future generations of the Cummins family.

NORA B. CUMMINS

Daughter of Carey and
Lettie Cummins

Seattle, Washington

1958

CONTENTS

Chapter

Nathan Cummins and Adin Cummins ---------- 1

Jeptha Cummins ---------- 2

The Dickerson Family ---------- 3

The Belman Family ---------- 4

The Sabine Family ---------- 5

Carey E. Cummins—Lettie M. Cummins ---------- 6

Nora Belle Cummins ---------- 7

Carl William Cummins ---------- 8

Erwin Jeptha Cummins ---------- 9

Lulu Elizabeth Cummins ---------- 10

Lee Edward Cummins ---------- 11

Ray Eugene Cummins ---------- 12

Grace Lettie Cummins ---------- 13

The Cummins in Dakota ---------- 14

The above is a typical sod house that constituted the homes of many pioneers during early Dakota Territorial days and closely resembles the sod houses built by the Cummins in the early 80's.

Chapter 1

NATHAN CUMMINS and ADIN CUMMINS

The first known ancestor of the present Cummins family was Nathan Cummins who was born the latter part of the Eighteenth Century, the exact date and place of birth being unknown to the writer. He married twice but the name of the first wife and place of marriage are unknown, however, family tradition names him as the father of children by his first wife but the names of such children are not known.

The Hamilton Ontario Historical Society Records show that Nathan Cummins and his second wife, Zilpha Howard of New Hampshire, moved to Ontario, Canada about the year 1818. At least four children were born to them, namely: Adin Drake Cummins, Deborah Cummins, George Washington Cummins and Artemis Cummins.

The assessment rolls of Beverly Township for the year 1827 showed that Nathan Cummins was a farmer and the owner of land and farming equipment. His name does not, however, appear on the assessment rolls for any later year. I have not obtained any facts showing what happened to Nathan but his wife lived with their son George Washington Cummins, a resident of Ontario until she died at the age of seventy-six in the year 1852.

There is a family tradition that Nathan was in the War of 1812-14 but the government records do not lend support or afford contradiction to the tradition.

I shall now consider the Nathan Cummins children—ADIN CUMMINS. Adin Drake Cummins was born March 21, 1805 in the State of New York. He went to Beverly Township in Ontario with his parents about the year 1818. On March 15, 1825 he married Mercy Skinner. The officiating clergyman was Ralph Leeming.

Adin was a farmer and his name appears on the assessment rolls in the township where he lived for the year 1829. The assessment rolls do not disclose his name at any time thereafter. What happened to Adin does not appear from any record that has come to my notice except that between the years 1841 and 1844 Adin and family moved to Lapeer County, Michigan where Adin purchased land, the deed to which is still in existence.

At the age of six (6) I saw Adin at the home of his daughter, Salome, in Northville, Michigan. He was eighty-three (83) years of age at that time. I recall that he wore a shawl in place of an overcoat when going to the post office for mail.

The wife of Adin was born on June 12, 1804. She was a daughter of Jeptha and Mary Griffeth Skinner. Ten children were born to them as issue of the marriage as follows:

1. Zilpha was born November 12, 1825. She was married November 20, 1844 to Albert A. Kendricks. There were no children as issue of this marriage. She died on April 20, 1898.

2. Jeptha was born on June 19, 1827 and died December 16, 1912. He married Phoebe Dickerson on March 22, 1852. I shall treat in detail the history of Jeptha Cummins in a later chapter of this narrative.

3. Sarah was born December 23, 1828 and died April 10, 1908. She married John Shoesmith on October 7, 1854. Two children, Hattie and Ida, were born to this union.

   (a) Hattie married a man named Simmons and they had three children, Floy, Ethel and Morelle. The latter is now deceased. Floy and Ethel at this writing live near Novi, Michigan.

   (b) Ida married a man named Fry. Two children were born to them, namely, John and Helen. Their present whereabouts are unknown to me.

4. Salome was born on March 12, 1831 and died January 28, 1900. She never married. Salome was an expert tailoress. I recall seeing her operating her large sewing machine and performing her other duties.

5. George W. was born on March 5, 1833 and died on May 11, 1894. He married Mary Burrington at Almont, Michigan on July 13, 1855. She was born in the year 1834. George entered the Civil War by enrolling at Almont, Michigan on October 31, 1863 in Company A of the First Regiment of a Michigan company of volunteers, to serve for three years, or during the war. He was mustered into service as Sergeant on the 11th of November, 1863 at Mount Clement, Michigan in Company A, First Regiment of a Michigan Company. On the muster roll of Company A for the months of June and July, 1864 he was reported killed at Beaver Dam Station, Virginia, May 11, 1864, but in

the regular returns for May he was reported killed in action May 11, 1864 at Yellow Lawn.

The affidavit filed as part of the application for a pension for Mary Cummins, his wife, and his minor children, on October 28, 1864 says that George died at Beaver Dam Station from a bullet wound while in the service of the United States. This affidavit speaks of his company as being cavalry.

A GAR record in Lansing says his death occurred at Yellow Tavern, Virginia where he was killed in action.

George was buried in the Old Soldiers Cemetery at Washington, D. C.

When George enrolled in the Army his name was entered on the government records as "Cummings" so thereafter he and his family wrote the name with a "g".

Two children were born to George and Mary, namely Ella born on May 28, 1857 and George Willis born on January 4, 1859.

Following the death of George his widow, Mary, reared the two children. Late in life she lived with her son George Willis in Detroit, Michigan. I saw her at the time of the family visit to Michigan and recall that she used an old fashioned ear trumpet in conversations with my father.

(a) The daughter Ella was married to Frank Morell Simmons and he died in 1887. Three children were born to this union, namely:

Edith in 1878 who died in December, 1957;

Jennie in 1881 and is still living. Neither daughter ever married. Jennie was a teacher and principal in the public schools of Chicago for more than forty years.

The third child of Ella and Frank, Arthur Gilbert, was born in the year 1885 and while he married, his wife's name is not known to the writer. He had no children.

The daughter Ella married her second husband, Reverend Henry S. Jenkinson in 1890 and moved to Chicago, Illinois where he was a pastor in one of the Presbyterian churches. Reverend Jenkinson adopted his wife's three children by the former marriage

who took the name of the adoptive parent. Two children were born to Ella and her second husband, namely:

Henry S., Jr. who was born in 1894 and died in 1928 and never married, and

Robert Edwin was born in 1895. He married but his wife is now deceased. They had two children, namely:

Elaine, now Mrs. A. O. Rondel of Bedford, Massachusetts, and

Corinne, now Mrs. Edward Delehanty of Rego Park, Long Island, New York.

Elaine has three children, Stephen, Victoria and Kathleen, all of whom are living.

Corinne has a daughter Walda.

(b) George Willis married Ida Sperry, the date of the marriage not being known. One child was born to them but died without leaving issue. After the death of his first wife George married Jennie Johnson. Four children were born to them, namely:

Milton, Ralph, Harry, and Mary who died as a child. Milton is also dead.

George Willis in 1906 installed the first steam laundry in Japan. Sometime after 1909 the George Willis family moved from Detroit, Michigan to California but their present whereabouts are unknown to the writer.

6. Richard was born April 21, 1835. He went south and was never heard from after the war. The family tradition also said he married a southern woman. The last location that the family had of his residence was Texas. They believed him to have been in the Confederate Army.

In the National archives in Washington, D. C. there is a record of a Richard Cummins, age 26, whose name is on the Confederate muster roll as having enlisted September 17, 1861 at Houston, Texas under Lt. Sparks. His name was on the muster roll for July and August, 1862 in the 2nd Corps Co. D 1 Regiment, Texas Heavy Artillery. He was last paid March 1, 1862 by Captain Story. The remarks reported him as being "On sick leave for cough".

It would seem that this man may have been the son of Adin Cummins. The age corresponds with the age of the son Richard, but as no

exact date of birth is given, and no relative named, one cannot be sure. The circumstantial evidence would seem to strengthen that belief. There is no other known record in Texas. A check has been made. The record in the Texas State Library at Austin has the different date of July 19th as the date of enlistment. It states that the company was known as Captain S. M. Drake's Company of Rough and Ready Guards. The official records in Washington indicate Richard's name appears on a petition objecting to the absorption of Drake's company by Mason's Company.

The Harris County Texas census for 1860 shows a Richard Cummins of the right age, a painter living in the home of J. R. Hogg. The report however gives the birth place as Wisconsin. The probability is that he is the Richard we are looking for and the wrong information was given to the census taker.

7. Benjamin was born March 10, 1837 and died August 3, 1862 in a hospital at Evansville, Indiana. He never married.

There are both military and pension records for this name. The pension records which deal with the request of his father for a dependent pension, are very interesting. Benjamin F. Cummings enlisted at Almont, Michigan on 23 December, 1861 in Captain Beach's Company. 10th Regiment, Michigan Infantry. His record shows that he had the rank of Corporal, but the later casualty sheet gives him the rank of Private. He was admitted to the General Field Hospital, Army of Mississippi, near Farmington, Mississippi on 9 July 1862. He was admitted to Hospital Steamer "Decatur" on 26 July 1862. On 30 July 1862, he was admitted to No. 2 General Hospital (Marine), Evansville, where he died on 3 August 1862 of typhoid fever.

The above information is from the pension record. According to the military record, he died on 1 August 1862 at Evansville, Indiana of consumption.

8. William was born March 9, 1839 and died January 2, 1862.

The GAR record in Lansing, Michigan says that a William Cummins enlisted at Adrian, Michigan, in Company C-4th Infantry, at the age of 23, and died of disease at Miner's Hill, January 2, 1862. Vernon Shoesmith says he has a letter that was written to his sister Louisa (Vernon's mother) by Oliver Vansant, dated December 30, 1861, saying that William was near death.

I have had the records in Washington, D. C. checked, but they do not show the record of William.

9. James was born February 21, 1841 and died October 21, 1850. James having died at an early age, there is no available factual information of interest concerning him.

10. Louisa was born May 11, 1844 in Lapeer County, Michigan and died March 26, 1921. She married George Shoesmith on November 5, 1867. Four sons were born to them, namely:

(a) Rollin H., who married and had a family of seven children, namely:

(1) Marelle who died in infancy.

(2) Homer who is now in Alaska.

(3) Clyde who lives in Seattle.

(4) Erma who is married to Hilary Cocking of Salem, Oregon.

(5) Ivan who is unknown to the writer.

(6) Lloyd who lives in Fargo, North Dakota. He is married and has two children, namely:

John and Margaret.

(7) Mark who lives at Almogordo, New Mexico. He is married and has a son Mark II.

(b) Harley E. who died at age twenty (20). There is no available information concerning him.

(c) Vernon M. who celebrated his 80th birthday in December, 1956. He married Elsie Morrison and they live in East Lansing, Michigan. They have three daughters, namely:

(1) Margaret Hulett who has a daughter Julie.

(2) Dorothy Pierce who has three children, namely: Karen, Marilyn and Allen.

(3) Helen Kane who has two children, namely: Joan and Susan.

(d) Merton. I do not have his date of birth nor the date of his marriage. He has two children, namely:

(1) Joan

(2) Yvonne.

He lives on the old family farm near Leslie, Michigan. Vernon M. was a professor in Michigan State University at East Lansing and since retirement has continued to live there.

Chapter 2

JEPTHA CUMMINS

In Chapter 1 all of the children of Adin Cummins were named but the facts concerning Jeptha, the oldest and the only living son after the Civil War, were reserved for a later place in this narrative. He being the father of Carey E. Cummins, the central character of this theme, seems entitled to special consideration and for this reason a separate chapter is devoted to him and his family.

Jeptha Cummins, as shown by the United States Census Records of 1850 as given by his father, Adin Cummins, was born in Ontario, Canada, June 19, 1827. He died at Leslie, Michigan, December 16, 1912 and was buried beside his wife in Union Cemetery at Groton, South Dakota. He married Phebe H. Dickerson on March 22, 1852. Eight children were born to them as issue of this marriage. They were in order of birth—

1. Myra Ethelyn was born April 4, 1853 at Dryden, Michigan. She died January 20, 1943. On February 22, 1873 she married Frank Bush, a farmer near Perry, Michigan. Eleven children were born to them. They were:

(a) Herbert was born December 10, 1873. He married in the West and there is no record of his wife's maiden name, but her first name was Nellie. She did not live long after the birth of their only child, Thelma, who was born in September, 1902. Thelma married James Siegfried in January, 1920. They had four children,

Sibble, Paula, Shawn and James.

I have no record of the birth dates. The husband is now deceased.

(b) Ida May was born May 7, 1875, died June 8, 1945. She married Elmer Hawkins November 10, 1897. They had one child who died at birth and one foster son, Glenn Hawkins, Ida's husband's nephew, who is now living in Arizona. Elmer Hawkins died September 9, 1941.

(c) Viola's date of birth is not known. She married Arthur Higbie May 26, 1897. They had three boys,

Donald, Lowell and Lester.

Donald married Lillian Hawkins, March 20, 1935. Lowell never married and died August 24, 1939. The third son, Lester, died February 20, 1923 at the age of two years and four months. Donald and Lillian have one son, David, who was born March 20, 1935. David is a newspaper man in Lansing, Michigan.

(d) Rollie T. was born November 2, 1878 and died October 31, 1949. Rollie married Marie Southowell (date not known). They had one daughter, Margaret, who died at the age of three years. Marie Southowell Bush is living in Modesto, California.

(e) Owen J. was born August 17, 1880. He married Mable Gage December 16, 1903. They adopted a daughter, Mrs. Nada Turner, whose husband is a Baptist minister in Flint, Michigan. They have one son, Ray, born April 22, 1948. Mable died December 23, 1948.

(f) Laura M. born August 5, 1882 and died February, 1895.

(g) Helen born June 22, 1884. Married Westley Gallagher in Everett, Washington in 1908. Died May, 1909. There were no children.

(h) John was born February 20, 1886. He married Mary Ellen Mahoney on October 20, 1910. John died June 18, 1953. They had four children,

Helen, Florence, Orville, and Gordon.

(1) Helen was born January 16, 1912. She married Wilfred Parks October 25, 1941. They have one son, Bruce Arlin, born January 14, 1944.

(2) Florence died at the age of ten months.

(3) Orville was born in May, 1916. He married Arlene Lessiter September 6, 1941. They had three children,

Meredith born February 4, 1943
Margaret born March 30, 1945
John Lessiter born May 23, 1947.

(4) Gordon died shortly after birth.

(i) Lelia was born October 16, 1889 and died May 24, 1941. She married Orville Davis in March, 1909. They had three children,

Thurlo, Theron and Beatrice.

(1) Thurlo was born August 25, 1911. He married Arlis Starbuck. They have three children,

Diane born November 11, 1940
Gerald born in 1944
Barbara born June 26, 1947.

(2) Theron Davis was born September 4, 1913. He married Virginia Griffith. They have one son,

Tracie born September 4, 1937.

(3) Beatrice Davis was born November 27, 1916. She married Kenneth Waite in December, 1941. They have three boys,

Kenny born November 5, 1942
Douglas born October 16, 1948
Karl Allen born August 18, 1950.

(j) Leona Bush was born October 4, 1894 and died November 5, 1940. She married Benjamin Witt in 1914. They had two daughters,

Virginia and Edith.

(1) Virginia was born August 7, 1916. She was married first to Donald Ed Dock in June, 1932 and they had two daughters,

Joan and Donna.

Joan was born February 24, 1933 and is in College.
Donna was born in June, 1935 and is now in high school.
Virginia then married D. Goldia Davis in December, 1940.

They have one son,

Gerry born in March, 1943.

(2) Edith was born August 13, 1918. She married Ralph Kaweck in December 1941. They have two children,

Karol Lynn born October 1, 1942
Ryon Ross born September 8, 1946.

(k) Gerald, youngest of the Myra and Frank Bush children was born March 27, 1896. He married Edna Everett September 26, 1922. They have two daughters,

Joice Merilyn and Jean Ellyn.

(1) Joice Merilyn was born August 9, 1925 and Married Minor C. Bower on September 4, 1948. They have three children,

A daughter Janna Lyn born April 14, 1950
Twin sons Douglas James and Timothy Lee born December 10, 1953.

(2) Jean Ellyn Bush was born November 14, 1926 and is a teacher.

2. Byron Edgar who was also called "Bide" was born at Almont, Michigan on February 22, 1855 and died December 7, 1935. Byron married Ella Viola Green on December 23, 1876. She was born in Perry Township April 7, 1858 and died at her daughter's home in Mt. Pleasant in December, 1944. Byron and Ella had three children, all born in Perry, Michigan, as follows:

(a) Bertha Mae was born on July 17, 1878. She married Fred Klunzinger, a jeweler on June 24, 1903. They have one daughter,

Kathelyn born May 30, 1905 and an adopted son Leonard.

Kathelyn married Hervey A. Bentler, December 25, 1925. They have four children,

(1) Hervey, Jr. born December 25, 1926, who is now married.

(2) Donna Mae born September 13, 1930, now a teacher.

(3) Betty Joan born May 27, 1933, who is now a stenographer.

(4) Allan Ronald born March 23, 1937.

Kathelyn and Hervey Bentler and family are now living in Lansing Michigan.

The adopted son Leonard was born in Mt. Pleasant on October 30, 1918. He is married and has four sons and one daughter.

The Fred Klunzingers live at 317 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

(b) Edna Cornelia was born July 20, 1883 and died January 5, 1904 and at the time of her death was working as a stenographer for the Hammond Publishing Company of Lansing, Michigan.

(c) Gladys Theo was born September 28, 1898 and died August 30, 1940. She taught school in Owosso for eight years and in Flint, Michigan for fourteen years.

3. Carey Eugene was born at Perry, Michigan on February 18, 1859 and died April 5, 1922. He married Lettie M. Belman on January 9, 1881, who was born August 8, 1863 and died February 22, 1950. Seven children were born to them.

As Carey Eugene is the central character of this theme, his history and accomplishments and his immediate family will be narrated in a later chapter of this story.

4. Ideline M. was born at Perry, Michigan on December 6, 1860 and died May 29, 1862. The brief span of her life leaves no factual information to be narrated here.

5. Frank Elmer was born on July 30, 1862 near Perry, Michigan. He joined his father, Jeptha Cummins, in Dakota in the fall of 1881. In the spring of 1882 family differences arose which angered Frank Elmer and he left home and never returned. Over a period of many years he wrote three letters to members of his family but did not give

the family any information about himself. Whether he is now living or dead is not known.

6. Adelia A. was born at Perry, Michigan on January 2, 1865 and died June 24, 1949. She was also known as "Ada". She married Thomas Kidd on September 15, 1890. He was a farmer. They had two daughters as follows:

(a) Irma born February 16, 1893. Unmarried. She taught school for many years in Detroit, Michigan but retired in 1946. She is now a chiropractor and resides at 15713 Schoolcroft, Detroit, Michigan.

(b) Edna was born March 22, 1896. She married Al Aillbee on December 31, 1920. They had two sons, Johnnie and David.

(1) Johnnie died at the age of five years.

(2) David was born April 10, 1926. He was married to Betty Jane Reeber on December 25, 1946. They have three children,

Robert born August 13, 1948
Sue Ann born September 10, 1949
Kathy Marie born August 24, 1952.

They make their home in Palo Alto, California.

Edna Kidd Aillbee married again in June, 1941 to Ray Diefinback. They are living in Grawn, Michigan.

7. Alva M. was born at Perry, Michigan on February 24, 1869 and died August 8, 1946. Alva married Jennie Osborne on May 28, 1893 who died in 1898. They had one daughter, Mildred.

(a) Mildred was born June 13, 1895. She now lives on Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Upon Jennie's death Alva married Fannie Fitch in February, 1900. They had one son and one daughter. The children are:

(a) Charles born May 13, 1905. He married Ruth Moore on January 10, 1931. They have four children,

Scheila born August 13, 1933
Charles C. and Harry C. twins born August 19, 1939
Peter born July 6, 1945.

Charles and his family now live in Okemus, Michigan. He is a lawyer.

(b) Dorothy was born on December 3, 1918. She married Howard Malpass on September 5, 1942. They have three children,

Mitchell born September 7, 1944
Howard born September 9, 1945
Thomas born December 10, 1949.
Dorothy and her family live in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alva was a lawyer of prominence. During a portion of his professional career he was a member of the law firm of Thomas, Cummins & Nichols at Lansing, Michigan. Alva was active in politics having been a candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket. He became a member of the Michigan Utilities Commission. He was very civic minded and public spirited.

8. Clara Belle was born at Perry, Michigan on March 23, 1875. She married Bernard Lawrence who died July 1, 1958 in Los Angeles, California. No children were born to Clara.

My remembrance of my grandfather, Jeptha Cummins, is that of a man with a grey beard and bald head. He had lost one eye due to an accident in a livery stable. The thills of a carriage had been lifted to eye level and he walked into one of them putting out his eye. My grandfather was kindly but had a reserved bearing and talked little. He had deep religious convictions and was always active in the Baptist church. In a letter written to his brother Ben, then in the Army, on June 29, 1862 he expressed deep grief for the loss of his little son Jesse on June 14, 1862 of a heart lesion left as the result of typhoid fever. His little girl had died May 29th. He spoke of the loss of the children with deep feeling and said that religion offered consolation in a world of conflict and death. Jeptha had lost a brother in the service earlier in the year.

As for the war grandfather referred to it as a veil of tears and hoped his brother would find strength in religion.

Grandfather liked to work in his blacksmith shop and was handy with tools. Father learned from him. Not only did grandfather like to work with iron, he enjoyed making canes of willow and mounting on them buffalo horn ends. The prairies were covered with buffalo horns which when polished were very attractive. He sent some of the canes back to his friends in Michigan. We had one in the family for many years that he had made for grandmother.

I do not have much of a personal impression of my grandmother, Phebe H. Dickerson Cummins. I remember her as having very pretty auburn hair. She was very fond of my brother Carl. She was a very hard working woman. When her family and friends suggested taking it easier she always said, "She would rather wear out than rust out". That saying was repeated many times by my hard working mother. The drive of my grandparents very definitely influenced the lives of my parents and our generation.

Grandmother moved with her family to Lapeer County, Michigan in childhood. She joined the Methodist church of Almont. After her marriage to grandfather they moved to Perry in 1855 where she joined te Baptist church. They lived at Perry until 1881 when they went to Dakota Territory. Grandmother never liked Dakota but said if it was good enough to live in, it was good enough to be buried in. Upon her death and in keeping with her wish she was buried at Groton, South Dakota.

Chapter 3

THE DICKERSON FAMILY

When Jeptha married into the Dickerson family, as shown by Chapter 2 of this narrative, ties were made with a family that has occupied an important place in our country's history and certainly in the Cummins genealogy.

Philemon Dickerson, who was born in 1598, arrived in Salem Massachusetts on May 10, 1637 on the good ship Mary Ann of Jarmouth. He was made a free man in 1641 and married Mary Paine in that year. He died in Southhold, Long Island on May 27, 1672. He had four sons, the youngest, Peter, being in Phebe Dickerson's direct line of descent.

Peter was born July 9, 1648 at Salem, Massachusetts. His first wife was a daughter of Thomas Reeve and his second wife was Naomi Mapes. Peter and Naomi had five children, the third one being Thomas.

The son Thomas married Abigail Reeve on January 13, 1712 and died at Southold, Massachusetts. He had seven children, five of whom moved to Morris County, New Jersey, including his son Thomas, his oldest son, and Peter the youngest son. Peter's descendants included a governor and United

States Senator from New Jersey who was also Secretary of the Navy under President Van Buren.

Thomas, Jr., so referred to to distinguish him from his father Thomas, married Sarah Nager on June 7, 1737. He died in the year 1772. Five children were born to this union of which Walter was the third. I have no available information concerning Walter or his wife. He had three children of which Noadiah was the third.

Noadiah was born August 14, 1760 and married Phebe Heaton on December 5, 1784. He died on December 3, 1844 and was buried in the Methodist Church Yard at Flanders, New Jersey. He had thirteen children of which John H. was the tenth.

John H. was born August 31, 1804. He moved to Niagara County, New York and later to Lapeer, Michigan. In 1827 John H. Married Margaret Howder. They had four children including Phebe H. who was born August 28, 1829 at Lewiston, New York and died July 8, 1887 at Putney, South Dakota. She married Jeptha Cummins March 22, 1852. Her children are covered by the Jeptha Cummins—Phebe Cummins history in an earlier chapter.

I have purposely omitted the history of eleven of the children of Noadiah for the reason that they are not in the direct line of the antecedents of the Cummins family.

Benjamin F., a son of John and brother of Phebe H., along with Jeptha Cummins and family were early pioneers and played a very important part in the development of community welfare in Dakota Territory and South Dakota's early statehood days. I have always called him "Uncle Frank". He was born in 1832 and died August 4, 1904.

Benjamin was a Civil War Veteran. At the age of thirty-one (31) he enlisted in Company H 23rd Regiment of Michigan and served from August 9, 1862 to June 28, 1865, at which time he was discharged at Salisbury, North Carolina. On December 29, 1865 Benjamin married Abigail Johnson at the home of John Crums in Shiwasse County, Michigan. Abigail was born May 19, 1842 at Wall Lake, Ovid County, Michigan and died March 12, 1926. She was an active member of the Methodist Church at Putney, South Dakota. Five children were born to this marriage as follows:

1. Altie May was born at Perry, Michigan on March 13, 1867 and died with cancer on March 7, 1954. She married William Henry Wood

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in April, 1889 at Putney, South Dakota. He died in September, 1918. They had four children, namely:

(a) Frances Belle born August 11, 1890 at Putney, South Dakota. She married Frank Pratt, and they had three children,

(1) Marjorie Pratt Cliff born February 13, 1920 and now living at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

(2) Jean Pratt Ives born June 12, 1925 and now living at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

(3) Virginia Pratt Abelin born June 16, 1928 and now living at Groton, South Dakota.

(b) Mabel died in infancy.

(c) Bryan who died as a minor.

(d) William Henry was born June 3, 1900 at Putney, South Dakota. He married Carrie Clawson and they have two children,

(1) Robert born May 31, 1923 and now living at Mitchell, South Dakota.

(2) Donald born September 16, 1925 and now living at Billings, Montana.

2. John Irvan was born December 20, 1868 at Perry, Michigan and died at Santa Fe, New Mexico on November 11, 1923. He married Alberta Snell and they had two daughters,

(a) Viola who is married and lives in California.

(b) Edna who died in early childhood.

John Irvan was married a second time to Effie M. Stanes on December 21, 1909. They had two children,

(a) John Darrell born April 11, 1912 at Aberdeen, South Dakota. He married Juanita Stevenson.

(b) Marlys Eloise born November 29, 1914 at Aberdeen, South Dakota. She married Robert W. Schaaf and they have one child,

(1) David Darrell born February 15, 1939 at Minneapolis, Minnesota and now living at Duluth, Minnesota.

3. Nellie Elizabeth was born February 6, 1871 at Lansing, Michigan and died in October, 1936. She married Fred Rasmusen at Putney, South Dakota on December 24, 1890. They had five children,

(a) Jay William born August 1, 1891 and died June 29, 1953. He married Lucy Renick of Little Falls, Minnesota and they had no children, but adopted the two daughters of Myrtle and Ed Doolin upon the death of Myrtle in 1935.

(b) Myrtle was born July 3, 1893 at Putney, South Dakota. She married Edward Doolin in October, 1923. Myrtle died on May 22, 1935. They had two daughters,

(1) Deloris who married Joseph Defoe. They have three children,

Lynnette
Susan
Jonathon Jay

(2) Joan who married Michael Lyons of St. Paul, Minnesota on June 28, 1957.

(c) Bertha Blanche was born May 6, 1897. She married Arthur Streeter on October 29, 1919 and they have three children,

(1) Donald born May 26, 1921. He married Jeraldine Leer and they have two children,

James Oscar, date of birth unknown
Terry born January 9, 1952.

Donald was married a second time to Vera whose surname is not known. They have a daughter born July, 1953.

(2) Andree born October 14, 1922. She is married to Bill Hendrick and they have two children,

Michael and
Patricia.

(3) Robert Draw born August 23, 1931. He is now living at 120 Ford Street, Ukiah, California.

(d) Gladys Ruth born January 4, 1899. She married Carl E. Green at Groton, South Dakota on November 23, 1920. They had two children,

(1) Marvel Lavone born June 10, 1923. She married Robert Johnson and they have five sons,

Van
Kent
Drew
Jay
Mars.

(2) Manley Lowell born July 19, 1925. He married Domaine Benson on April 14, 1951. They have two children,

Robin Lowell and
Kathy Der

(e) Glenn Henry was born July 7, 1901. He married Anna Yelkin in April, 1933. They had one daughter,

(1) Bette Rasmusen Schlobohm and she had six children.

Donna
Marvin
Garey
Dennis
Ronald
Robert.

4. Charles Augusta was born at Perry, Michigan in March, 1873. He married Ona Mary Hawes at Aberdeen, South Dakota on July 22, 1899. Charles died February 23, 1932 and is buried at Groton, South Dakota. He was a farmer, stock buyer and elevator manager at Putney, South Dakota. His wife, Ona Mary lives with her daughter Gladys at 1814 Glass Avenue, Spokane, Washington. They had three children,

(a) Frank William born July 10, 1901 at Putney, South Dakota. He married Clare Larson, who is now dead. They had two children,

(1) Robert
(2) David.

(b) Velma Lavern was born November 10, 1911 at Putney South Dakota. She married James Warias. She is a nurse. They have two children,

(1) James R.

(2) Susan Marian

(c) Gladys Madeline was born September 26, 1906 at Putney South Dakota. She married Raymond Davies and they have one son,

(1) Owen Davies, a medical student at the University of Washington.

5. Frank Emery was born August 21, 1876 and died March 2, 1944. He married Bertha Rasmussen on November 8, 1902 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Frank was a successful farmer at Putney, South Dakota. He and his wife and daughter moved to Pasadena, California where he became a building contractor. His wife, Bertha, died November 18, 1949. They had one daughter,

(a) Doris Valeda born January 2, 1910 at Aberdeen, South Dakota and died in 1944. She married John Wilfong who lives in Pasadena, California. They had one daughter,

(1) Dorothea Jean born in December, 1939.

Chapter 4

THE BELMAN FAMILY

It appears in Chapter 2 that Carey E. Cummins married Lettie M. Belman, therefore to make complete the family picture I shall give briefly the history and genealogy of the Belman family.

John Belman was born in England April 16, 1790 and died in Detroit, Michigan April 11, 1867. Before coming to America he spelled his name Bellman and his father before him, upon going to England from Holland, changed his name from Bellmann to Bellman.

John married Hannah Creighton who was born on July 7, 1802 in Pillipstown, Ireland. She died November 14, 1882 and was buried in Detroit, Michigan. It is a family tradition that she was a descendant of Lord Creighton.

It is believed that my grandfather, John Belman, was the John Belman who is recorded as having arrived in Philadelphia by the way of Halifax on July 29, 1818. He became an apprentice saddler in 1820 but is listed later as a shoemaker. His wife, Hannah Creighton, is reported as having come to this country at the age of seventeen. She was a member of an important family in Ireland, and has been described by her family as a very proud capable woman with unusual skills in carrying out her household tasks. Nine children were born to John and Hannah as follows:

1. William
   and
2. James

Twins born in October, 1828 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. William died in May, 1829 and James died of diabetes on November 29, 1882.

Data found indicates that James C. Belman was a newspaper man connected with the Cincinnati Gazette and Daily Enquirer. He was later in Indianapolis and was a joint editor of the book, "The Great Revival". While reputed to be a minister of the Gospel, there is no record of ordination nor of a pastorate. There is a Mrs. J. C. Belman of the same address in Cincinnati mentioned as a milliner and keeper of a gift shop.

A son Charles and a daughter Jessie were born to James and his wife whose name is not known to me.

3. Elizabeth, sister of William and James, was born on July 19, 1836 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and died in April, 1914 of diabetes. She was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan. Elizabeth married Daniel Hudson who died May 10, 1856 at the age of thirty-two (32) of lung fever. One son James Hudson is buried in Detroit. Elizabeth was housemother in a cottage at Evanston connected with Northwestern University.

4. William Fletcher, a brother of James and Elizabeth was born June 11, 1832 in Pennsylvania. He died April 27, 1923 and was buried at Perry, Michigan. William was a farmer, grocery clerk, and harness maker and later a farmer for the second time. He left home at an early age and apprenticed himself to a tannery. During his early life he tried several different occupations. In politics he was a Republican. He was a deacon in the Perry Congregational Church at the time of

his death. His children regarded him as a strict disciplinarian in the family circle. William Fletcher was my mother's father.

William Fletcher had three wives, Mathilda Sabine, my mother's mother, whom he married on May 9, 1859 and who died on August 7, 1866, Amanda Rowell whom he married on June 17, 1869 and who died on October 5, 1869 and Elizabeth Gibbs whom he married on April 13, 1870 and who died on October 3, 1943.

Three children were born to William Fletcher and his first wife Mathilda Sabine, namely:

(a) William C.

(b) Nora Lettie

(c) Lettie Mary (my mother).

(a) William C. married his first wife Nettie Smith on June 24, 1884. She died about 1897. They had two children, namely:

(1) Charles who died at the age of twenty-one, and

(2) Edna who died a minor.

William C. married his second wife Emma Rork who died April 7, 1907. They had one child,

(1) Creighton born May 9, 1901. Creighton's first wife was Louise Philips whom he married in 1929. They had two children:

Creighton R., Jr. and
William Porter.

Creighton had a second wife but her name and the date of his marriage to her are not available.

Creighton's third wife was Kathryn May Leath. This marriage was in 1938. They have one child,

James Starr born April 30, 1942.

William C.'s third wife was Sarah Starr. I do not have the date of this marriage but Sarah died on August 4, 1957 at the age of nearly ninety-eight (98) years.

William C. Belman in addition to his public school education attended Valparaiso University in Indiana. He later became super-

intendent of schools of Hammond, Indiana which position he occupied for many years. In later years he was active as a banker and also in the development of a substantial cemetery association at Hammond. He was also connected with a Hammond Building and Loan Association for a number of years.

(b) Nora Lettie was born October 30, 1861 and she died on the date of birth.

(c) Lettie Mary. The history of Lettie Mary, my mother, appears in other parts of this narrative and I therefore omit the same at this point.

Amanda Rowell, William Fletcher's second wife, had no children.

Elizabeth Gibbs, William Fletcher's third wife, had six children, namely:

(a) Stella May born September 5, 1871. She married William Albert Tucker on October 1, 1896. Stella May after completing her common school education took a course in nursing and practiced her profession as a nurse for a number of years and up to the time of her marriage. In fact she met her husband while a patient under her care in a Chicago hospital. Two children were born as issue of this marriage, namely:

(1) Verna May born August 12, 1897 married to Ren Lauren Blodgett, September 5, 1921. They have one daughter,

(a) Elizabeth Jean born January 6, 1925. She married Robert Job Sabin. They have four children, namely:

Shelly Ann born October 30, 1952.
Laurie Renne born August 18, 1955.
Gail Elizabeth and Roberta Jean, twins born September 6, 1956.

(2) Albert Belman Tucker born October 31, 1901. He married Helen Alvira Haswell on August 7, 1928. They have five children, namely:

I. William Albert, II born January 3, 1928. He is married to Elizabeth Louise LeRoy. They were married January 26, 1952 and have three children, namely:

William Albert III born March 19, 1954.
Donald Allen born June 17, 1955.
John LeRoy born May 12, 1958.

II. Robert James born December 18, 1928. He married Joan Knight Hermes on October 27, 1950. They have two children,

James David born November 15, 1953.
Thomas Charles born February 17, 1957.

III. Thomas Haswell born November 14, 1930. He is not married.

IV. Caryl June born April 20, 1934. She married David Tronvig Threinen on September 8, 1957.

V. Albert Belman Tucker born September 18, 1937. He is not married.

(b) Vidi Fletcher Belman was born October 13, 1874 and died January 10, 1957 with diabetes. He married Lena McCormick. They had no children.

(c) Burchel Gibs Belman born August 10, 1878 and died September 3, 1953. His first marriage was to Anna Black about 1905. She died in 1916. They had two children, namely:

(1) E. Keith born February 10, 1906.

(2) Burchel Ivan born January 24, 1908. He married Marjorie E. Adams in 1934. They have two children, namely:

I. Bruce W. Belman born January 4, 1943.
II. Sarah K. Belman born February 5, 1947.

Burchel's second marriage was to Katherine Moore. They had no children.

(d) Sarah Elizabeth Belman was born September 23, 1883. She married Sidney Manser Colby on April 16, 1903. She died March 25, 1937. They had three children, namely:

(1) Thelma Alta born October 2, 1904. Married Clarance Arthur King on June 11, 1936. They have one son,

Robert Colby King born January 9, 1937.

(2) John Valentine born February 14, 1906. He married Ethel Trenchard on August 25, 1927. They have six children, namely:

I. Sidney Trenchard born August 1928. Married Florence Alice Weston on July 29, 1949. They have three children, namely:

Eleanor Ann born February 15, 1953.
James Weston born November 5, 1954.
Diana Lea born November 16, 1957.

II. Mary Ethel born September 6, 1931. Married to John Lloyd Whitlock on June 19, 1950. They have three children, namely:

John Michael born September 10, 1951.
Carol Ruth born November 8, 1953.
Laurel Agnes born January 12, 1956.

III. Anita Eleanor born July 6, 1939. She married Donald Patrick on August 9, 1957. They had no children.

IV. John Richard born July 12, 1940.

V. Louise Elizabeth born February 15, 1942.

VI. William Allan born October 27, 1945.

(3) William Howard born April 22, 1908. He married Katherine Adelaide Braucht on December 27, 1935. They have one child:

David Scott born May 23, 1942.

(e) Job Tressler Belman born August 16, 1886, Married January 6, 1909 to Regina B. Murphy. Job died October 25, 1918. They had two children:

(1) Wanda born September 1910 and died June 15, 1945.

(2) Donald born April 10, 1914. Married July 17, 1937 to Mamie Bernice Fleismer. They have six children, namely;

I. Donald, Jr. born March 12, 1938.
II. Gary born March 5, 1940.

III. Sharon Jean born January 9, 1944.
IV. Richard born June 15, 1945.
V. Patricia born June 23, 1946.
VI. Therise born August 10, 1954.

(f) Bessie Ann Belman born December 14, 1891. Her first marriage was to Ray Emerson Bennett on June 12, 1911. He died in January 1949. They had three children, namely:

(1) Ray Leonard born February 26, 1915 and died January 31, 1916.

(2) Albert Fletcher born January 10, 1917. He married Edna Krzyminski October 27, 1945. They had two children, namely:

I. Carol Ann born May 26, 1946.
II. William Fletcher born May 29, 1955.

(3) Cecilia Maxwell born December 28, 1919. She married Walter Joseph Stufanski on May 7, 1942. They have five children, namely:

I. Cheryl Ann born August 1, 1943.
II. Walter Joseph, Jr. born September, 19, 1945.
III. Katherine Marie born March 9, 1947.
IV. Susana May born May 2, 1948.
V. James Timothy born July 7, 1950.

Bessie Ann's second marriage was to George Joseph La Fromboise on April 19, 1931. He died March 6, 1947.

5. Margaret, a sister of Elizabeth and William Fletcher, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1835 and died in 1914. She married Burgese Hall and lived in Detroit and Alma, Michigan, during her lifetime. Margaret had one son John Hall a farmer who lived in the vicinity of Alma, Michigan.

John Hall married and had one son Harry, a farmer. Harry had two sons and a daughter, Florence. Florence married and had one daughter and three sons.

6. Mary C., a sister of Margaret, was born in Ohio in 1838 and died of consumption in the year 1854.

7. John A., a brother of Mary C. was born in 1840 in the State of Ohio. He married a woman whose first name was Jennie. Sometime after his marriage he deserted his family and his whereabouts has never been known. John A. and Jennie had four children, namely:

(a) Helen, called Nellie, who married a Robert Twiss.

(b) Eddie.

(c) Frank.

(d) Florence.

8. Sarah M., a sister of Mary C. and John A., was born July 19, 1841 in Ohio and died January 19, 1930 of diabetes. She married Arthur Antisdel who was a hotel proprietor. They lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Two children were born to them,

(a) Edwin Antisdel.

(b) Florence Antisdel Thompson.

9. Emma L., a sister of Mary C., John A. and Sarah M., was born August 29, 1842 in the State of Ohio as disclosed by the United States Census of 1850, however, Flora, Emma's daughter, insists that Emma L. was born in Covington, Kentucky. Emma was married on July 9, 1875 to James Edmund Jacklin and died on July 10, 1926. Emma graduated from Detroit High School in 1865 and became a teacher in the Detroit schools. Her husband taught Greek and Latin in Detroit High School and became a minister and also an editor of the Methodist Christian Advocate. He died in 1940. They had one daughter Flora Jacklin.

Chapter 5

THE SABINE FAMILY

My mother, Lettie M. Cummins, was a daughter of Mathilda Sabine Belman and it therefore is necessary to complete the family picture that the genealogy of the Sabine family be shown.

John Sabine was born on August 30, 1788 and died August 25, 1852 in Clarkston, Michigan. He married Maria Hicks on March 1, 1809 who died on February 20, 1871 in Detroit, Michigan. Ten children were born to John and Maria including John C. Sabine who is the only one in the direct line of descent of my mother, Lettie Mary Belman.

John C. was born in Canterbury, England November 30, 1815 and died November 3, 1905. He married Mary Booth Hagell on January 10, 1836 who was born in Canterbury, England. John C. came to America with his father. John Sabine. The trip took eight weeks on an American Liner. Upon landing at New York the family traveled up the Hudson River to Troy, New York where John C. decided to go on his own. He worked for $4.00 a month and board. After saving $20.00 he joined his family at Utica, New York where he repaired harnesses at 75c a day for Faxton Stage Company. John like many others contracted the western fever and learned about available land in Michigan which could be bought for $1.25 per acre. Affected by the western spirit he started for Chicago on foot with $5 in his pocket. He lived off the country by repairing harnesses for his food and lodging. Alone, tired and hungry he met a French fisherman's family in Detroit who befriended him over a Sunday. On Monday he looked about Detroit but was still thinking of Chicago. He met Uncle Tom Palmer, father of United States Senator Palmer, who later became President of the Columbian Exposition of Chicago in 1893. Mr. Palmer encouraged John to buy a lot in Detroit and work it out which he did. With his work and the profits of $50.00 realized from the sale of his lot he accumulated $400.00 so that in 1836 he went to England and brought back the girl as his wife that he had left behind. Her name was Mary Booth Hagell. She died in Detroit December 11, 1867 of typhoid fever. In 1869 he married Mrs. Mathilda Keal, a sister of his deceased wife. John established a harness shop and operated the same for many years in Detroit. He became a very successful and highly respected business man of Detroit. Nine children were born to John and Mary as follows:

1. Matilda born October 10, 1836 and died August 7, 1866. On May 9, 1859 she married William F. Belman, a grocer. They had two children, namely:

(a) William C. Belman and
(b) Lettie M. Belman.

William C. Belman and his children have been discussed in the chapter devoted to the Belman family.

Lettie M. Belman and her children will be discussed in the chapter devoted to the Carey E. Cummins family which will be found in Chapter 6 of this narrative.

2. Mary Booth Sabine was born October 27, 1839 and died May 26, 1926. She married James Folsom, a night watchman, who died June 10, 1910. They had one daughter,

(a) Isabella Folsom Iler, born January 12, 1869 and died April 18, 1955.

3. James Woodward was born January 28, 1843 and died December 2, 1926. He never married, and was a saddler.

4. John C. was born April 25, 1845 and died in 1909. He never married and was a saddler.

5. Elizabeth Ann was born April 1, 1848 and died in April, 1934. She never married and was a teacher in the Detroit schools.

6. Maria Susanna was born February 22, 1850 and died in 1873. She never married.

7. Joseph Frederick was born July 11, 1853 and died in 1885 in California. He married and had one daughter,

(a) Agnes.

8. Sophia Louisa was born March 13, 1856 and died November 10, 1932. She married William Thayer, a merchant in Detroit and later moved to Los Angeles. They had two daughters, namely:

(a) Charlotte, who is now Mrs. Heber and lives in Los Angeles, and

(b) Grace, who married Joseph Krolik and now lives in Detroit.

9. Sabina Emma was born March 15, 1859 and died in 1861.

A more complete genealogy of the Sabine family is in the Genealogical Collection in the Public Library of the City of Detroit, Michigan.

Chapter 6

CAREY E. CUMMINS
LETTIE M. CUMMINS

In Chapter 2 the vital statistics of Carey E. Cummins are given and it is now my purpose to narrate the instances of seeming importance in his career.

As a boy in Michigan his experiences were quite like those of the average country youngster of his time. Hunting woodchucks, picking apples, helping on the farm and attending country school made up the early routine of his life.

In 1879 he and uncle Will Belman entered Valparaiso University of Indiana and he became an excellent pen artist and was very proud of his penmanship. He was a good mathematician and a tireless reader. Strong in his convictions he never hesitated to express himself and usually with vigor and effectiveness.

Politically father was a Republican in his younger days, but like many other pioneers who were constantly battling hardships he had a feeling for a new order and became politically independent. Later on he joined the Farmer's Alliance and also became affiliated with the Populist Party and was a delegate to its conventions. However, in 1912 he was a delegate to the state convention of the Bull Moose Party and supported Theodore Roosevelt for the presidency.

He served as Township Supervisor in 1885-1888, was Township Treasurer from 1888 to 1896 and was elected Clerk of the School Board.

In 1880 and up to the time of his marriage to Lettie M. Belman in January 1881 there was much talk concerning the opportunities afforded by Dakota Territory to the land-hungry pioneer. It all resulted in decision by the Cummins family to go to Dakota. This decision brought about the marriage of father and mother and the migration to Dakota in 1881.

Before writing of the trip to Dakota and experiences and the growth of father's and mother's family it seems appropriate to here write of mother and her early life; her date of birth, marriage and death appear in an earlier chapter.

When mother was three years of age her mother died of a systemic infection and she went to the home of her grandmother, Mary Booth Sabine, where she lived until her grandmother died in 1867. She then made her home with her father's sister, Margaret Belman Hall, in Detroit, Michigan. When her father married his second wife, Amanda Rowell, on June 17, 1869 she went to his new home to live. The stepmother died on October 5, 1869 whereupon mother's father married his third wife, Elizabeth Cheney Gibbs, on April 13, 1870. Mother continued to live in her father's home until her marriage on January 9, 1881.

Mother acquired her education in a country school near Old Perry Center in Shiwassee County, Michigan. She was a happy, attractive girl full of life and enthusiasm and had a host of friends. In later years she showed a strong personality and aptitude for community service and leadership among the women in the community in church and social activities. As a homemaker and mother she had the love and affection of her husband and children and the respect of her neighbors, all of whom were her admirers and friends.

Seven children were born to father and mother as issue of their marriage. The names of the seven children in the order of birth are:

1. Nora Belle Cummins
2. Carl William Cummins
3. Erwin Jeptha Cummins
4. Lulu Elizabeth Cummins
5. Lee Edward Cummins
6. Ray Eugene Cummins
7. Grace Lettie Cummins.

The history of each of the children will appear in the next succeeding chapters. The factual information in each chapter was furnished by the child to whom the chapter is devoted except in the case of Lulu Elizabeth, the writer having used her records as the source of information.

Chapter 7

NORA BELLE CUMMINS

In a sod shanty on the South Dakota homestead of Carey and Lettie Cummins their oldest child, Nora Belle, was born on July 18, 1882. She never married.

She went to school at the age of four for a very short time in the Riverside School which was later moved to Putney. She recollects the old sod house with its various rooms and furnishings as will be described in the pioneer story. In fact, her childhood was tied up with the pioneer days of Dakota. As she says, she recalls the building of the Great Northern Railway through Putney and well remembers the ox team and the first horses that her father owned.

Like most children of those days, the members of the family entertained each other. There was much work to be done, dishes to be washed, the table to be set and the water pitcher to be kept filled at meal time which was one of the duties that her brothers still remember. She was also expected to keep an eye on the younger members of the family. She recalls the sprained wrists, the injured knees, the cut fingers and the cuts on the feet from going barefooted.

The family moved on to the big farm when she was five. She has recorded many of the things that took place in the family story and she found it hard to separate her childhood and youth from the family story.

The schoolhouse which Jeptha Cummins succeeded in having built was closed for several years so Nora did not go to school until she was nearly eight years old except for the short time mentioned above.

After the Cummins school was moved Nora and her brothers went to Putney to school.

Upon the completion of the school at Putney she decided to teach. After one year of Normal School at Madison, South Dakota she entered the teaching profession by the way of the teachers examination for a certificate.

After several years of teaching in the rural schools of Brown County, South Dakota she finished her Normal School at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

For the next four years she was the eighth grade teacher at Webster, South Dakota.

Again feeling the urge for further study she attended the University of Minnesota. For the next two years she taught Normal Training in the Slayton and Delano, Minnesota High School. She then finished her work at the University for a degree, and returned to her Normal supervision work, this time at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota where she stayed for two years.

For two summers she taught in the Aberdeen, South Dakota Normal School.

Dr. G. W. Nash, a former President of the Aberdeen Normal School, became President of the Bellingham, Washington Normal School. Upon his invitation Nora became a member of the staff of the school and remained their until her retirement in 1951.

During the years at the Normal School, which became Western Washington College in 1933, she took a leave of absence to secure a Master's Degree from the College of Political Science of Columbia University, New York. She used most of her vacations for further study at several universities therefore completing two additional years of graduate work.

She was largely responsible for the introduction of the course on the History of Civilization into the curriculum. She taught this course along with her special interests in Modern European History and Political Science. With this background she became especially interested in International Relations which eventually became part of the curriculum as the college expanded. From time to time she taught other Social Science subjects as programming needs demanded.

As a faculty member she served on many committees. She was at one time President of the Faculty Forum which was the campus unit of the Washington Educational Association and the National Education Association. For several years she was chairman of the legislative committee.

Being a strong believer in the student clubs as a means for the development of leadership she was named by the administration to be counselor of student clubs.

After the normal school became a college she was one of the promoters of a chapter of the American Association of University Professors and served as its President.

She belonged to several societies closely related to her professional career such as the Administrative Women in Education, the American Historical Association, Foreign Policy Association and other learned societies from time to time.

Besides her professional life she found time to participate in community activities. She was a charter member of the Bellingham Business and Professional Womens Club and was responsible for the organization of a local chapter of the American Association of University Women. She served on various committees, locally, state and area.

She has continued her interest in these organizations. In later years she became an active member of the League of Women Voters and served on many of its committees, local and state.

During World War I she worked with the Red Cross in various capacities and assisted in the community war efforts in other ways such as being on the four minute speakers' bureau to explain the government programs.

In World War II she served on the Bellingham Mayor's Committee for Defense. Her efforts centered around the work of the Rationing Board and the giving of radio talks explanatory of the public relations programs of the government and the background of the war. She also served on the committee in charge of the violations of the price control programs.

Activity in two wars and the failure of governments to establish peace in the world greatly accentuated her interest in International Relations. She served on various peace committees from the time of Woodrow Wilson to the end of World War II.

When the time came for her retirement she decided that she might be more useful in the educational program of the American Association for the United Nations than anywhere else. She left Bellingham and took up residence in Seattle where she is now Vice President of the Seattle Chapter of the A. A. U. N. and chairman of the Education Committee. She is also Vice Chairman of the State A. A. U. N. Council on Organization. Just recently she took a 2,000 mile tour around the State of Washington in the promotion of education concerning the A. A. U. N.

Nora has been fond of the outdoors of the Pacific Northwest. She has also traveled over North America and Western Europe.

She expects to continue her interest in family history and in the promotion of education to further better International Relations in the world.

Chapter 8

CARL WILLIAM CUMMINS

Carl William Cummins was born in the family sod house on the South Dakota homestead situated near Putney, Brown County, South Dakota on September 28, 1884. He was the second child born to his parents. During his early childhood Carl had the experience of most rural children of the times. He knew ox carts and stone boats, then wagons and buggies. The first motive power of his day was the ox followed by the horse and later mechanical power such as the automobile and tractor.

Like most children Carl entered the first grade in school at the age of five. There was no kindergarten in those days. His older sister, Nora, looked after him in going to and from school and carried home the story of his childish capers. He was not too kindly disposed toward school work during his grade school days, but finally finished the eighth grade in the Ritter Country School where his sister Nora was the teacher. At the age of nine Carl did his first field work with a team of horses, Mage and Roxy, on a harrow. From that time on he did the work of a farm hand during the busy seasons and handled all then used types of machinery. He early acquired a knowledge of the steam threshing engine and operated the same when fifteen and sixteen years of age during threshing season and in the feed mill during the winter. There was considerable rivalry between him and his brother, Erwin, in the use of grain binders. Erwin operated one of the Deering binders and Carl the Plano. One of Carl's taunts was, "The Jones Lever Binder Rules the World". The competitive spirit helped make the long hot days in the harvest field a little less burdensome than they otherwise might have been.

Carl was very fond of history in particular the stories of military and naval conflicts. He liked biographies and frequently committed to memory the orations of famous men. In 1898 while shocking rye he committed to memory the Declaration of Independence which he still remembers. While a student in the country school he took part in school debates and literary programs which he enjoyed.

When twelve years of age Carl decided he wanted to become a lawyer. At age fourteen he wrote his uncle Alva M. Cummins of Lansing, Michigan,

a lawyer, for advice about taking up the practice of law. Uncle Alva wrote a long letter in which he outlined the qualifications a successful lawyer should possess. Instead of discouraging Carl he became more determined to make the law his career.

Carl early liked hunting and was very fond of guns. His first was an Army Musket converted into a breech loader called a "Zulu". The shells were brass and the powder black. It at times seemed equally destructive on either end, but it did kill ducks, prairie chickens and jack rabbits, and the user actually escaped without serious injury. Erwin claimed that he drove the horses while Carl always did the shooting. There may be merit to the claim.

As in most families nicknames for the brothers and sisters became quite common place. The origin of the names may be obscure but Carl receives credit for the authorship of some.

All in all life on the farm was wholesome, the work was hard, the hours long and the results sometimes discouraging. Probably the hot winds, drought, grasshoppers, Russian thistles and long hours and hard physical labor contributed to Carl's decision to leave the farm and become a lawyer.

In September, 1902 the Northern Normal and Industrial School of Aberdeen, South Dakota opened its doors to students for the first time. Carl was one of the first to enroll. Nora drove him to Aberdeen and assisted in the enrollment. During the first year at the Normal Carl lived in the home of S. H. Jumper, Aberdeen Postmaster, and cared for the cow, mowed the lawn and shoveled snow for his board and room. The second and third years he worked for his board and room in an apartment building owned by a Mrs. Kidd. In his senior year Carl and Erwin had a small apartment where they prepared their own meals and did odd jobs on Saturdays for such pay as they could get. Carl graduated from the institution in 1906. He was President of the Forum literary society, the Athletic Association and Captain of the football team on which he played for four years. He was on the editorial staff of the school paper, took part in inter-society debating and oratorical contests and was author of his class poem. He was a member of the debating team that represented his school in the state inter-school debate and won a place in the state oratorical contest. The Senior Class in 1906 staged "The Rivals" as a class play. Carl took the part of "Sir Anthony Absolute". The performance was pronounced "a success".

In the summer of 1906 Carl attended summer school at the University of Minnesota. He in September of that year accepted the principalship of a

two year high school at South Shore, South Dakota. On Memorial Day in 1907 Carl delivered the address at Groton, South Dakota. His talk received much praise in the Groton Independent, a weekly paper. In September, 1907 Carl enrolled as a student in the St. Paul College of Law, a night school, and in the Globe Business College. He secured a job as a bus boy in a restaurant for his meals. Shortly after enrollment he was appointed as a teacher in the business college and in the fall of 1907 to a position in the St. Paul City Schools as a teacher, which position he held until July, 1909 when he entered the law offices of Morphy, Ewing & Bradford as a law clerk. Carl graduated from law school in June, 1910, and was admitted to the Bar at that time. All members of the law firm, Carl's early employers, have passed on and Carl is now the senior member of the successor firm Cummins, Cummins, Hammond & Ames with offices in St. Paul, Minnesota. This firm includes Carl, his brother Ray and son Carl, Jr. The practice of the firm is general, but all the members are trial lawyers and the firm carries a top rating in the leading legal directory. Carl is a member of the County, State and American Bar Associations. He has argued cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Federal Courts of different jurisdictions. For ten years he was a lecturer on the subject of "Pleading" in the St. Paul College of Law.

He is a member of the Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity, a member of Braden Lodge of A. F. of A. M. Paladin Commandery, and Minnesota Consistory No. 1. He is a K. C. C. H. and a member of St. George of Constantine, and is a Past Potentate of Osman Temple Shrine. He is a charter member of St. Paul Court No. 9 Royal Order of Jester and is a Past Director of that organization and a Past Royal Impressario of the National Court. He served as the Grand Orator of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Minnesota and has been active in Scottish Rite Masonry.

Much time has been devoted by Carl to Civic affairs. He has been a director of the St. Paul Association of Commerce for a number of terms and has served two terms as its President. He has served on many of its committees in the past. During World War II he was Chairman of the St. Paul Civilian Defense Council and was active in building a home defense organization. At the conclusion of the war he was named a member of the Regional Loyalty Board and later became its Chairman. Carl is a member and has served as House Committee Chairman and a member of the Board of Directors of the Saint Paul Athletic Club. Carl was campaign chairman of the St. Paul Community Chest in 1931 and became its President and

director. He was President and Director of the St. Paul Area Council of the Boy Scouts. For a number of years Carl was a member of the City Planning Board of St. Paul and took part in the study and recommendation of plans for the Capitol Approach. For many years he was the Treasurer of the Christmas Seal Committee and is now a member of its Board of Directors.

The Cosmopolitan Club International awarded its medal of honor in a public presentation to Carl for the most outstanding civic service of the year.

In politics Carl has been a life long Republican. He was Republican City and County Chairman, a member of the Republican State Central Committee, and was a Presidential Elector when Mr. Hoover was elected President. In 1919 Carl was nominated for Congress to fill a vacancy caused by the death of the incumbent. A three cornered race resulted and he lost the election by a narrow margin. He claims the defeat was his greatest victory.

In addition to his many other activities Carl is an outdoors enthusiast. For many years he has been a trout fly fisherman, duck hunter and has hunted upland birds in many states and Canadian provinces. He is a big game hunter having bagged mountain sheep and goat, moose, deer and caribou. He was a member of the Big Game Club of the State of Minnesota for many years.

For a number of years Carl was active in the trap shooting fraternity. He was President and a Director of the Twin City Shooting Association. He also belonged to a number of hunting clubs.

In 1944 Carl purchased a two hundred and forty acre farm in Washington County, Minnesota where he established and built and excellent herd of pure bred Holstein cattle. He sold the farm in 1953.

On September 5, 1911 Carl married Cecilia Margaret Fitzpatrick at a simple ceremony in the home of her parents, Charles John and Margaret Regina Fitzpatrick. Cecilia was the second in a family of six children, the others being Mary Josephine, William Thomas, Genevieve, Charles Evans and Marguerite Lucile.

Cecilia's father was one of seven children born and raised on a farm near Shullsburg, Wisconsin. He married Maggie Evans in January, 1880, and they went to live in the little town of Aplington, Iowa, where all of their children were born. Charles held the office of postmaster for twelve years. He also served as bank cashier. He played an active part in all town activities.

Cecilia's mother was the typical mother and housewife of the time, busy and self-sacrificing, getting an amazing lot of sewing and cooking and canning done, in addition to raising her family of six. She always whistled as she worked, sad little tunes of the times such as "The Spanish Cavalier" and "The Ship That Never Returned".

When Cecilia was twelve her teacher entered her in an elocution contest and she won a silver medal. She sang in the church choir and in all the choral organizations in high school, was President of her class in her junior year, and was named class poet.

After graduating from high school, Cecilia taught school for two years. Not caring for teaching, she took the money she had saved and went to business college and took a secretarial course. Her first position was in a lawyer's office and she loved the work. Her sister Genevieve later prepared for the same work and they both went to St. Paul and found positions there, Cecilia's again in a law office, where she and Carl met.

Cecilia was an early and active member of the Mother's Club of their school, of which she was the charter President. She organized the women of the Republican Party for the 11th Ward in St. Paul; was a member of the Eastern Star and was chairman of the Shrine Auxiliary for Crippled Children one year and did active work in it for many years. She was a captain in the Liberty Bond drive during the first world war, did Red Cross work during the second world war, and was a member of the League of Women Voters almost from its inception.

In the summer of 1954 Carl and Cecilia bought a home in Mahtomedi, Minnesota, on White Bear Lake, where they love to have the children and grandchildren come for swimming, fishing and picnicking.

Four children were born to this family, as follows:

1. Loraine Marian Cummins
2. Janet Cecilia Cummins
3. Marjorie Jean Cummins
4. Carl William Cummins, Jr.

LORAINE MARIAN CUMMINS

Loraine Marian, first child of Carl and Cecilia Cummins, was born on December 12, 1912.

Early memories are of her mother's teaching her to read and to print her name and the alphabet before starting to kindergarten; of the many family camping and fishing trips and summer visits to "Woodhome" which fostered a love of the beauty and solitude of the north woods; of her father's pride in the good marks his children earned in school and their pride in him as a public-spirited attorney active in civic affairs and a fine public speaker; of dancing, piano and violin lessons. It was a casual and pleasant home life with many children about, noisy and, of course, sometimes quarrelsome.

Loraine attended Oak Hall and Central High Schools in St. Paul and then Carleton College and the University of Minnesota studying art and advertising, but after graduation finally doing social service work in the depths of the depression.

Her one great handicap throughout her childhood had been the hay fever and asthma to which she was subject but which was not diagnosed as such until this time. A series of "shots" provided much relief.

While engaged in social work she met Dr. Walter Robert Schmidt, "Bob", and they were married on December 1, 1939 after the completion of his four-year surgical residency at the Ancker Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, and moved to Worthington, Minnesota where he was a partner in the Worthington Clinic.

Bob was born in Chisholm, Minnesota, on July 17, 1911 to Doctor Walter Richard Schmidt and Edith Chappuis Schmidt. His father's family had come from Weemis, Province of Bern, Switzerland where they had been the village doctors for generations. The name was spelled "Schmid", and this branch of the family was the only one to add the "t". It had appeared by mistake on Dr. Schmidt's medical school diploma and was used by him from that time on. The Chappuis' had been French vineyard owners and wine makers. Doctor Schmidt died in Glencoe, Minnesota of cancer caused by x-ray burns on his hands in 1943 at the age of sixty-three. Mrs. Schmidt died of intestinal cancer in 1950 at the age of sixty-five. Bob had two sisters, Susan (Mrs. Calvin Russel) and Ruth (Mrs. Floyd J. Indall).

In July, 1942 Bob went into the army as a Captain stationed at Camp White, Medford, Oregon, and then spent three years overseas in Hawaii and the Philippines, and was discharged in February, 1946 as Lt. Colonel.

In December, 1948 the family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where Bob had a two-year period of study of Thoracic Surgery and then went into private practice specializing in that field.

Children of Loraine and Bob Schmidt are in order of birth:

1. Jan born February 22, 1941 in Worthington, Minnesota. She is now a high school senior.

2. Walter Robert, Jr. born February 14, 1943 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is now a high school sophomore.

3. Jeffrey Richard was born October 31, 1946 in Worthington, Minnesota. He is a grade school student.

JANET CECILIA CUMMINS

Janet Cecilia, daughter of Carl and Cecilia Cummins, was born December 19, 1914 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Her first memories consist of stepping over the newly painted doorsill of their new home on Princeton Avenue, visiting the "Old War Garden" on the edge of town, and playing "Hungry Giant" with her father.

Her early childhood was made up of happy days coasting on Princeton hill, skating, picking wild flowers in the neighboring woods, and swimming in the lakes adjacent to the city.

There was always a new house in the process of being built close by and Janet got her greatest thrill climbing precariously about the attic rafters of these buildings. It was so exciting to gaze straight down the three floors to the concrete basement below.

The wonderful vacations spent at Woodhome on Lake Roosevelt with her family are summers she will never forget.

Janet's grammar schools were Groveland Park and Maria Sanford Junior High School. She graduated from University High School in 1932, and entered the University of Minnesota that same year.

After slightly more than a year at the University she married Gillette Alexander Elvgren of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gillette and Janet moved to Chicago, Illinois where Gillette enrolled at the American Academy of Art. At the completion of his course they con-

tinued to live in Chicago for a time, then moved to Winnetka, Illinois and later to Sarasota, Florida. Gillette is self-employed as a commercial illustrator.

Janet was baptized and confirmed in St. Paul's Church on the Hill in St. Paul, Minnesota, where the Elvgren family were also members. Janet and her family were members of Christ Episcopal Church in Winnetka, Illinois.

Gillette Alexander Elvgren was born March 15, 1914, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended grammar school in St. Paul and graduated from University High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1932. After a year at the University of Minnesota he enrolled at the Minneapolis Art Institute.

Gillette's father, Alex Aner Elvgren, was born in 1882 in Sweden of Swedish parents. His family brought him to America with his brother and sister in 1886. His younger brother was born after the family settled in St. Paul Park, where Aner remained until his marriage to Goldie Alice Gillette on September 18, 1912.

Goldie Alice Gillette was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1889. Her mother, Rose Drake, was of English extraction. Her father, Cyrus Gillette, was of Dutch, English and French extraction.

Children of Janet and Gillette Elvgren are in order of birth:

1. Karen Louise was born in Evanston, Illinois on April 27, 1938. Karen is now a student in Rollins College and is much interested in the subject of journalism.

2. Gillette Alexander, Jr. was born January 6, 1942. He has adopted the name "Rocky", which name is in general use by the family and friends. Rocky is an outstanding trumpet player. He is a high school student.

3. Drake Cummins was born March 3, 1944 in Evanston, Illinois. He is now a junior high school student.

MARJORIE JEAN CUMMINS

Marjorie Jean was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on November 16, 1917.

She attended Groveland Park Grammar School, University High School, from which she graduated in June, 1935, and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1939 with a B. S. degree in Clinical Psychology. Her greatest fun during these years was her singing in glee club, trio, choral and solo

work. Music meant a great deal to her, thanks to piano lessons and musical fun in the family.

She met Justin Edward Miller (called Jim) in the spring of 1939. After nine months of family welfare work she married Jim on August 29, 1940.

Jim graduated from the St. Paul College of Law in June 1940 and was employed by the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company in St. Paul. After several transfers with this company they finally arrived in Pasadena, California where Jim is manager of the Los Angeles office of this company.

They have five children as follows:

1. Anne Elizabeth born in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 8, 1941.

2. Justin Edward, Jr. born in Denver, Colorado on September 8, 1943.

3. Patricia Jean born in Denver, Colorado on February 18, 1946.

4. Susan Theresa born in Santa Monica, California on March 25, 1949.

5. Margaret Mary born in Santa Monica, California on October 27, 1950.

The greatest hobby and pleasure of the entire family is weekend trips with the trailer and boat fishing and hunting.

Justin Edward Miller, Marjorie's husband, was born at Klein, Montana on March 18, 1916. He attended grammar school in various places in Montana and Idaho and high school in Minneapolis Central and St. Paul Central. Jim's father, Edward Andreas Miller was born in Bayfield, Wisconsin on August 28, 1888 of Norwegian parents. He married Janet Ellen McImamey in Idaho on December 8, 1914. After many moves they settled in St. Paul where he was employed by the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company sales division. He retired in August, 1954. Janet Ellen McImamey was born in Stratford-on-Avon, Quebec, Canada of Scotch-Irish parents on January 1, 1890. The family moved to Pelican Rapids, Minnesota soon after and Janet left home to teach school at the age of sixteen years. She was teaching in Idaho when she met and married Edward Andreas Miller. The Edward Andreas Millers are now residing in Ocean Side, California.

CARL WILLIAM CUMMINS, JR.

Carl William, Jr., the first and only son of Carl and Cecilia Cummins, was born on a frigid January 23rd, 1922. He very nearly left this world during the first year of his life being a victim of both scarlet fever and pneumonia. Although in later life Carl showed absolutely no artistic ability he was best remembered by the neighbors for his painting exploits as a youth. When about four years old he together with Charles Stewart, his lifelong friend and neighbor, sought to improve upon the coloring of Carl, Sr.'s Marmon automobile and were discovered by the parents of both youngsters painting the Marmon a vivid yellow. At the age of six Carl, Jr., who had somewhere picked up the nickname "Buzzy" and which has stuck with him, joined another friend and neighbor, Billie Ovrom, in baking apples and potatoes over an open fire in an empty lot kitty-corner from the Cummins home. Carl, Jr. was wearing cowboy pants at the time with a leather fringe and approached the fire too closely and the trousers ignited. Lacking presence of mind he ran home where his sister, Loraine beat out the flames with a dish towel, but not until Buzzy had suffered a severe and permanent burn to his right leg.

Buzzy started school in the kindergarten of Groveland Park School and in the second grade, for reasons which his parents have never confided to any one, he switched schools in mid year going to the St. Paul Academy Junior School. He attended the St. Paul Academy through the sixth grade and from there went to Junior High School and ultimately through high school at the University High School. While just short of fifteen years Buzzy met a pretty and charming eighth grader by the name of Bette McGough while attending a sleigh ride on January 9, 1936. His first date with her was on his fifteenth birthday, January 23, 1936, the first occasion he could legally drive the family automobile. Buzzy continued to court Bette with occasional breakups and other dates and he now is proud to claim her as the mother of his three children.

Ever since a young boy Buzzy's father encouraged him in athletics and when in the eighth grade at University High School he was invited out for the high school football team by the coach, Jim Curtis. He got in one game as an eighth grader and played regular guard as a freshman on the team. He also was on the basketball team as a freshman and through the remaining three years, winning a letter in both football and basketball. Football was his first love and as a sophomore he played fullback, weighing in at one hundred and fifty-five pounds, until he broke his collar bone. As

a junior he played halfback and made All Lake Conferences at that position despite two fractured vertebra received in practice. As a senior the University High School team went undefeated and Buzz played fullback making all conference at that position and all state on the team selected by the Minneapolis Journal.

Carl, Sr. interested his son in hunting and fishing at an early age, the first hunting trip being when Carl, Jr. was six years old. When he was seven years old his father bought him a single barrel 410-gauge shotgun, and when he was eight years old he shot his first duck with a twenty-gauge double barrelled gun. His interest in hunting and fishing has continued.

Upon graduation from high school in 1940 Buzz went to the University of Minnesota and took a pre-law course for two years. During his second year at the University he took up flying under the Civilian Pilot Training Program of the Federal Government, and when war broke out he quit school and continued his flying training at White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Burlington, Vermont. Leaving Burlington he joined the Air Transport Command Division of the Army Air Corps and was stationed at Romulus Air Field near Detroit, Michigan for two years. While there he ferried airplanes and instructed, being qualified in twenty-six different types of air craft ranging from small single engine planes to four engine B24 bombers. In 1944 he left the Air Transport Command and signed on with the China National Aviation Corporation and proceeded by airplane to Calcutta, India. From there he was assigned to Dinjan Air Field in the jungles of the Assam Valley in Northeast India. He spent the next year flying the "hump" between India and Kunming, China making numerous side trips to other cities in China. The flying was highly dangerous so it was the mingled relief and regret that he became a victim of malaria and was shipped home shortly after the end of the war arriving in St. Paul in December, 1945.

He immediately went to work at Midway Chevrolet Company in St. Paul earning $160.00 per month, and began night law school in January, 1946 at the St. Paul College of Law.

Bette McGough was born on January 31, 1924 at Couer D'Alene, Idaho, the youngest of the two daughters of Charles and Ruth McGough. Charles was one of ten children and was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, leaving his home town at the age of sixteen to work for the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company. Whereas Charles is one hundred percent Irish, his wife, Ruth Whitman, was born to a good German family at Cloquet, Minnesota. Charles has recently retired from his employment.

Bette McGough, having withstood the charms of numerous other men, consented to be his bride and they were married on January 30, 1946. In June of that year Carl, Jr. went to work as a claims adjuster for the St. Paul Mercury Indemnity Company and continued in that position while attending night law school until January 21, 1949.

Children of Carl, Jr. and Bette Cummins are in order of birth:

1. Carl William Cummins, III was born December 12, 1947 at St. Paul, Minnesota.

2. Christopher John Cummins was born December 29, 1949 at St. Paul, Minnesota.

3. Laura Ann Cummins was born July 24, 1954 at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Chapter 9

ERWIN JEPTHA CUMMINS

Doctor Erwin Jeptha Cummins was born August 27, 1886 in the sod house home. Erwin remembers that when he was seven years of age he visited the old sod home with his father.

Erwin was the third child born to Lettie M. Cummins and Carey Eugene Cummins. Nora Belle and Carl William preceded him. His first experience in driving a horse was a memorable occasion. His mother and sister, Nora, hitched the horse, Frank, to the buckboard and he drove one mile and a quarter for some flax seed for a poultice to treat Nora's felon. Thus he had his first introduction to the practice of medicine and his first experience in handling horses. Soon, thereafter, his first horse race took place. His brother, Carl, on old blind John, with Erwin, bareback on Susie, went down the stretch, Erwin holding on to Susie's neck. Erwin started in doing farm work early. He remembers plowing when too small to raise the plow out of the ground without an extra long lever his father made. A little box with a straw cushion served as a seat.

When old enough he started to school, finishing the eighth grade at Putney, South Dakota in 1905. That fall he entered the normal school at Aberdeen, South Dakota. He enrolled in the college preparatory course as

he was planning to study medicine. Erwin earned his way through the normal school to a great extent by doing janitor work, waiting on tables and doing odd jobs about the city. He succeeded in finishing five years of college preparatory work in the four years at the normal. Erwin played football for three years while attending the normal, graduating from there in 1908 and matriculated as a freshman at Northwestern Medical School in the fall of 1908. While attending the Medical School Erwin again paid his own way through the first three years by waiting on tables, doing odd jobs and finally through a paper route which he purchased with money borrowed from his parents—the money was later repaid.

Erwin outlined his studies on pocket sized cards which he studied while delivering papers. Erwin was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Medical Fraternity in his senior year. During that year competitive examinations for places on the intern staff of Cook County Hospital, a prize much coveted, were held and Erwin was among the successful applicants. He graduated June 12, 1912 and entered the Cook County Hospital as an intern in December, 1912, remaining there for twenty-one months. In September, 1912 Erwin married his sweetheart, Edna Frances Goffe, of normal school days. Edna had a position and kept on working while Erwin was interning.

On September 7, 1914 Edna and Erwin entrained for El Paso, Texas, arriving there September 11, 1914. They rented a room, installed a gas plate and had a movable screen to change the room from kitchen to living room or bed room as the occasion demanded.

Erwin took an office in the Mills Building and at this time still offices in the same building. Erwin and Edna found starting out as a new doctor in a strange city was no easy matter. They borrowed money to live on for the first six months. From then on a successful practice became a reality only to be interrupted by army service. Erwin was commissioned 1st Lieutenant Medical Corps in 1917 soon being promoted to rank of Captain. He was Commanding Officer of the Medical Detachment 61st Coast Artillery during its service overseas in the First World War.

After his discharge from the Army Erwin became very active in his profession and served as Secretary, Vice President and President of the El Paso County Medical Society and as Secretary and Chief of Staff of the El Paso Masonic Hospital and El Paso General Hospital. Erwin was elected to the American College of Surgeons in 1932. He was a member of the El Paso Medical Society, his State and National Societies. At one time

Erwin served as Director and Vice President of the El Paso Kiwanis Club. For thirteen years he was a member of the El Paso School Board, the last ten years served as its President. In 1931 he was instrumental in organizing the El Paso Medical and Surgical Clinic and served as its President throughout its existence.

In 1945 Erwin became interested in Show Horses and acquired several American Saddle Bred Horses which were shown with considerable success throughout the southwest. He also became interested in chickens about the same time and gradually built up a large poultry establishment with a flock of about 13,000 chickens. Erwin really enjoyed this venture though he was very unfortunate for the first few years. The enterprise furnished an outlet for his surplus energy and gave two of his sons employment.

Erwin became a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Shrine. He joined the Methodist Church while a student at Aberdeen, South Dakota having his membership transferred to Trinity Methodist Church in El Paso where he served as a member of the Board of Stewards.

Edna Frances Goffe, Erwin's wife, was born April 7, 1885, in Sully County, South Dakota to Albert Ernest Goffe and Louise Elizabeth Cox Goffe. Cora Blanche and Albert Ernest, Jr. composed the family at that time. In Edna's second year her parents returned to Albany, New York, her father's birthplace, where six years later Louise Elizabeth was born. Mr. Goffe's mother, a Miss Gorham and father, John, were born in London; as was also Mrs. Goffe's father, John A. Cox. Mr. Goffe had one brother, John, and four sisters, Harriet, Alice, Charlotte and Frances. Louise E. Cox was born in Charleston, South Carolina.

When Edna was twelve her parents returned to the South Dakota farm; later moving to Pierre; then to Aberdeen, where the meeting of Erwin and Edna took place. After completion of high and normal school courses, Edna entered Junior year at the University of Chicago.

Erwin enlisted in World War I in 1917 and was stationed for officers' training at Fort Oglethorp, Georgia; then at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina until July 1918. The family remained together until May, 1918, when wife and little daughter left to reside with Edna's parents in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In July, 1918 Erwin was shipped to France where he was kept until the signing of the Armistice. Upon discharge Erwin proceeded to Minneapolis for his wife, daughter and son whom he had not yet seen. The family left

for home in El Paso, Erwin to resume his interrupted medical practice.

Most of the family have fellowship with Christians at Grace Chapel, a fundamental, non-denominational meeting.

Erwin and Edna have four children as follows:

1. Hazel Louise Cummins
2. Erwin Jeptha Cummins, Jr.
3. Ray William Cummins
4. Robert Francis Cummins.

HAZEL LOUISE CUMMINS

Hazel Louise was born in El Paso, Texas on March 12, 1917. She was the oldest child and only daughter of Erwin and Edna Cummins.

Outstanding in her memories of the first eighteen years of her life is her memory of an especially interesting trip made with her mother and father and three brothers from El Paso northwest to Bellingham, Washington where "Grandma Cummins" and Aunt Nora were then living.

In September, 1936, after completing two years of college work at Texas Western in El Paso, Hazel and her younger brother, E. J., boarded the train for Chicago, Illinois, from where an interurban took them twenty-five miles west to the little town of Wheaton. Here in a truly Christ-honoring atmosphere in Wheaton College, Hazel spent two years graduating with a B. A. degree in French and Spanish. E. J. graduated the following year with a B. S. in pre-med.

This same year, far from Wheaton, in the state of California, a young man, two years Hazel's senior, entered the University of California to study engineering—Gordon Sutherland, third child of John and Jane Sutherland, both of whom had come to the United States from their native Scotland. Gordon had been unable to continue his education after graduating from high school, and so had served four years with the United States Coast Guard. "God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform." Had Gordon begun his university training immediately upon graduation from Berkeley High School, he and Hazel might never have met as they did during her first year at "Cal." (University of California) where she went in September of 1938 to take graduate courses in Spanish and to take work for a teaching certificate.

Gordon's university education was interrupted in 1940 when he chose to enlist in the Air Force. Three months after completing his air force training on June 12, 1942, Gordon married Hazel in Berkeley, California near Stockton, where he was stationed as an instructor. In December of 1945, Gordon, then in Albuquerque, New Mexico, received his discharge from active duty in the Air Force, and with his family moved to El Paso, Texas to complete his interrupted college education. On December 21, 1946 Gordon completed his college education in Albuquerque and obtained a B. S. degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Odessa, Texas was the next home of the Sutherlands, with Gordon out of school and employed as an engineer by Phillips Petroleum Company. Gordon remained with Phillips Company for five years, when the Lord seemed to open the way for the family to move to El Paso to live. There, in May of 1954 Gordon, now employed by the El Paso Natural Gas Company, moved with his family into their new home.

As we've jotted down these recollection of events that have transpired in years gone by, and been reminded, along with pleasant memories of happy occasions, of failures and short-comings, we cannot help but be filled with thanksgiving to the One who has promised us an eternal future of pure joy unsullied by mistakes and failures of our own. How very good it was of the Lord Jesus Christ to have laid down His life on the Cross, that our sins might be put away, thereby making it possible for us to enjoy Heaven forever with Him!

Children of Hazel Louise and Gordon Sutherland are in order of birth:

1. Robert Gordon born July 16, 1943.
2. William Kenneth born August 28, 1944.
3. Shirley Frances born December 21, 1946.
4. Richard Erwin born August 18, 1954.

DOCTOR ERWIN JEPTHA CUMMINS, JR.

Doctor Erwin Jeptha, frequently referred to as "E. J." was born June 2, 1918 at Minneapolis, Minnesota while his mother was residing with her parents awaiting the return of Doctor Erwin J. Cummins, Sr. from military service. E. J. was reared in El Paso, Texas.

He was an "A" student throughout grade and high school; a member of National Honor Society Scholarship Club; Captain in R. O. T. C. He

attended College of Mines (now Texas Western) one year; then on to Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois for three years, taking a pre-medical course. After graduation he attended Northwestern Medical School, Chicago, Illinois four years, on completion of which E. J. entered Passavant Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, remaining twenty-seven months for internship, residency, and fellowship. Two years' military service followed in Walter Reed Hospital. He officed with a leading orthopedist in Chicago for two years since he desired to specialize in that line. He entered private practice for two years, becoming a staff member of a Christian hospital in Chicago.

In February, 1943 E. J. was married to Marjorie Schaefer of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Schaefer.

E. J. and Marjorie attended Moody Bible Church while they lived in Chicago.

In 1951 both E. J. and Marjorie responded to a definite call of the Lord for mission service in Nigeria, Africa, especially among the thousands of lepers. They went out in 1952 and served four years, during that time beginning the building of Niger Leprosarium Mission Station. After a year's furlough in the United States 1956-1957 they returned to their field in July, 1957.

Children of Doctor Erwin Jeptha, Jr. and Marjorie Cummins are in order of birth:

1. Cynthia Leigh born May 10, 1945.
2. Christine Faye born September 2, 1947.
3. Ross Brian born in Nigeria, Africa on February 19, 1956.

RAY WILLIAM CUMMINS

Ray William, generally known as "Bill" was born on March 4, 1920 in El Paso, Texas.

In grade and high school he excelled in sports. He attended Schreiner Junior College, Kerrville, Texas for one year. He also attended Rice Institute, Houston, Texas where he was active in track and basketball. In 1942-1943 Bill was NAAU champion in the hurdles. In 1943 he entered the Marine Corps in the V12 program, and was sent to Lafayette, Louisiana for training, where he met Marjory Guynn. Bill served with the Marines in Okinawa, where he was wounded by shrapnel. He received a medical discharge, and in 1946 returned to Rice Institute, from which he graduated with a B.S.

in physical education. July 12, 1947 Bill and Marjory Guynn were married. They made their home in El Paso where Bill went into business with his father—at first he worked with the horses mainly in Sunland Stables. He trained and showed horses locally and in the southwest show circuit. Bill is a member and past President of the El Paso Riding and Driving Club. Later the farm changed its name to Cummins' Egg Farm and Bill works entirely with the chickens and eggs.

Marjory Guynn was born July 31, 1925 in Opelousas, Louisiana, of Sue McQueen Guynn and Frederick Samuel Guynn, originally from Scottsburg, Indiana. Marjory attended Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana, graduating in 1945 with a B. A. degree in Accounting and Business Administration. She worked in Houston for the Humble Oil Company.

The family attend non-denominational meetings at Grace Chapel.

Children of Ray William and Marjory Cummins are in order of birth:

1. Ray William, Jr. born December 21, 1949.
2. David Guynn born February 15, 1952.
3. Arthur Erwin born October 5, 1953.
4. Carol Lynn born June 7, 1957.

ROBERT FRANCIS CUMMINS

Robert Francis was born August 18, 1924. He attended the elementary schools and Austin High School in El Paso, Texas. He was a student in the College of Mines and Metallurgy in El Paso, the Texas A. & M. in College Station, Texas and Curtiss Wright Technical Institute in Glendale, California.

Robert worked for the North American Aviation Company in Engelwood, California for two and one-half years, General Electric Corporation in El Paso, Texas for three and one-half years, the Sunland Poultry Farm owned by Doctor Cummins and Sons in El Paso, Texas for six and one-half years. He is now the Director of Public Relations for Broadcast Services, Inc. in El Paso, Texas.

On October 9, 1944 Robert married Helen Lucille Branch in Grace Chapel in El Paso, Texas. Helen Lucille was born on November 22, 1924. She attended the elementary school in Fort Worth and Eagle Pass, Texas, the Roosevelt Junior High School in San Diego, California, El Paso and Austin

High Schools in El Paso, Texas, San Diego and Pt. Loma High Schools in Pt. Loma, California.

Robert and his family are members of the Lower Valley Congregational Church.

Robert's hobbies are sports, aviation, gardening and raising dogs. Helen Lucille's hobbies are fish, birds, animals, gardening and raising dogs. Robert and Helen Lucille's favorite recreations are golfing, swimming, bowling and reading.

Children of Robert and Helen Lucille Cummins are in order of birth:

1. Lorna Helen born June 27, 1949.
2. Kathleen Frances born June 4, 1953.
3. Robert Francis, Jr. born April 16, 1957.

Chapter 10

LULU ELIZABETH CUMMINS

Lulu Elizabeth Cummins, the fourth child of the family of seven children of Carey and Lettie Cummins, was born November 1, 1890 in the home that had been built by her grandfather. The early pioneer days were over because the family now lived on the big farm and the old sod house on the homestead was falling into decay. On July 4, 1891 she took the prize as being the prettiest baby at the Fourth of July baby show in Groton, South Dakota. The prize was a silver cup given by the C. B. Collins Drug Company as a contribution to the holiday celebration. The cup is now being used by a grand niece, little Ann Reichert. Lulu was a striking baby with large black eyes and long curly black hair. Of course, the family were proud of her—especially her father.

She died August 18, 1948 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Bellingham, Washington with cancer. She was also afflicted with diabetes. Lulu never married.

Her elementary education was acquired in the rural school at Putney, South Dakota, except for a short attendance at the Ritter School. On finishing the eighth grade in 1905 she entered the Webster, South Dakota High School where her sister Nora was teaching in the eighth grade. After one year in

the high school she transferred to the Northern Normal and Industrial School at Aberdeen. At the time she entered the institution it was giving high school work as well as teacher training. It is now known as the Northern State Teachers College. She did her work well and was graduated in 1910.

Lulu made many friends while in the Normal School.

In addition to her elementary schooling she studied piano with a teacher in Groton and participated in several student recitals.

After graduation from the Normal School she taught in the high school and eighth grade at Pierpont, South Dakota, 1910-1911, where she taught Latin and English. The following two years she taught the Eighth Grade in Groton, South Dakota, where her future sister-in-law, Hattie Osman, was one of her pupils. She lived at least one year with Uncle Frank and Aunt Abbie Dickerson, who had left their farm and moved to Groton.

Because she was ambitious for a college degree, she stopped teaching and enrolled in the University of Minnesota from which institution she was graduated in 1916 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Major in history. Following her graduation she taught history and English in the high school in Chisholm, Minnesota for a year; then went home to Aberdeen to teach history and mathematics in the high school during the years 1917-1920. She left Aberdeen to teach Civics in the Rochester, Minnesota High School but stayed only one year, when she returned to Aberdeen for the year 1921-1922.

Her desire for further study took her to Columbia University, New York City, where she received her Master of Arts Degree in 1923.

She taught social studies in the Bellingham Normal School in the summer school of 1923.

Lulu was disappointed in not getting a satisfactory position for the fall. The period of an over supply of teachers was beginning and continued until World War II. She decided to attend the University of Washington until a satisfactory position could be secured which appeared at Ely, Minnesota in 1924. She left Ely in 1933 and went to the P. E. O. College in Nevada, Missouri, where she stayed until 1939, when she had the opportunity of returning to Minnesota to teach the social studies in the Worthington Junior College, where she was located for three years. She enjoyed her work but ill health overtook her.

Never robust in health, she had to undergo three major operations in one year. The illness took a heavy toll upon her vitality and her last two years at Worthington were something of a struggle. She taught Economics and Sociology, with Psychology thrown in. The administration decided that they wanted a man to handle the Economics. Therefore she was given a nice recommendation, but the depression was still on and there were still too many teachers. Undaunted by the disappointment and poor health she went back to the University of Minnesota in 1939-1940 and took a course in Business Administration. She received a certificate for commercial work in 1941. In 1941 she went to Lancaster, Minnesota where she taught the business courses for the year 1941-1942. In 1942 she accepted a Junior College position in Orange City, Iowa, where she taught Economics and Business courses for two years. In 1944 she accepted a position in a four year college in Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio, where she taught until 1946.

She went to Mount Vernon, Washington and secured a position for the summer and moved West. A position opened in a Salt Lake, Utah Business College for the coming year. It became apparent that her health was in a serious condition and she did not fill this engagement. In the summer of 1947 she taught in Buena Vista College, returning to Bellingham where she taught in the Bellingham Business College in 1947-1948, when her health broke completely and she died August 18th, 1948.

In addition to the above professional career she taught one summer (1944) in the Ogden, Utah School of Business and attended summer sessions at Chicago University 1919-1933; 1936-1937; the University of Minnesota 1927, 1928, 1934, 1939, 1942 and the University of Washington 1936. She was always trying to improve herself and add to her teaching equipment.

In extra curricular activities she served as sponsor of the Carnegie International Clubs in the institutions where she taught. She acted from time to time as student counselor, Advisor of School papers and School bulletins, served as debate coach and helped with dramatics. She was prepared to do a variety of things.

Professionally she always took part in educational meetings. She was a member of the Pi Lambda Theta Honorary Society in Education. In community work she was a member of the American Association of University Women and the Business and Professional Women's Club. From time to time she served as chairman of committees and as an officer. She was a member of the Methodist Church. At the time of her death she belonged to the Garden Street Methodist Church in Bellingham.

She had a great love for her family and took great satisfaction in their achievements.

Her family and friends remember her cheerful laugh. Her landlady, Mrs. Hilliard with whom she lived in Ely for two years, wrote, "When I think of her I always remember her laugh. It was like a rippling brook".

Chapter 11

LEE EDWARD CUMMINS

Lee Edward Cummins was born near Putney, South Dakota on June 23, 1893.

He received his grade school education in the grade schools at Putney and at Riverside School. After completing his elementary education, he received his first year of high school at Groton, South Dakota. The next three years were completed at Aberdeen, South Dakota where he graduated in 1914. He attended Northern Normal and Industrial School in 1915 and 1916 after which he went into partnership in the grocery business in Aberdeen. After two years he took over the Cummins farm near Putney and operated it until September 28, 1929. On January 7, 1919, while on the farm, Lee married Hattie M. Osman at Aberdeen, South Dakota, and was divorced in 1940. Hattie M. Osman spent her early life in Groton, South Dakota where she attended the public schools. The family moved to Aberdeen where she took a business course and became a bank clerk. She served in that capacity until her marriage. After the divorce she with her youngest son moved to Los Angeles, California where she joined her daughter Marlis. Later on her oldest son Harold joined the family circle. For some years she was post mistress in a grocery post office. She is now a filing clerk in a commercial office.

While a farmer he was active in farm organization work. Lee was chosen President of the Farm Bureau for two successive two year terms. He also worked at intervals with the South Dakota Wheat Grower's Association and the Farmer's Equity Exchange, also did Public Relations and organization work for these two cooperatives.

Following this work, he was chosen as a keynote speaker on South Dakota State College winter short course program. Following this short

course program, the Extension Department at South Dakota State College sponsored a state-wide debate in which any and all could participate. Lee and his colleague, along with over one hundred persons took part in this debate. He was successful, after debating the question twenty-eight times in the course of one year in winning the state championship.

On September 28, 1929, he sold his personal property on the farm at public auction and moved, with his family to Huron, South Dakota where he had been elected by the State Farm Bureau as general manager for their State Cooperative Service Company. After serving one year in this capacity, he was promoted to the office of Executive Secretary and Organization Director. He served this organization until April in 1933 and then accepted a position with United Petroleum Corporation of Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1935 he accepted a position with Consumers Cooperative Association of Kansas City, Missouri again doing public relations work. After serving in that capacity for five years they gave him the job of rebuilding "broken down" Cooperatives. He located at Norton, Kansas until 1943 in order to complete that assignment. While in Norton, he was married to Helen Marie Beyer, his second wife, at the Evangelical Reformed Church at LeMars, Iowa. Helen Marie Beyer, Lee's second wife, was born in South Dakota. For a time she was a teacher and she is now a bookkeeper.

In the spring of 1943 Lee and his wife, Helen, moved to Denver, Colorado. While there he was employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. He received his training for this position at their school at Akron, Ohio. He served as general manager for their retail outlet at Grand Junction, Colorado.

Having been trained in cooperative work for so many years, he found it necessary, for happiness sake, to get back into the cooperative movement. He then returned to Denver and accepted the position of rebuilding the Araphoe County Cooperative of Englewood, Colorado. When this work was completed, he was selected by Consumers Cooperative Association of Kansas City as their Public Relations Representative in an Area Federation with their central office at Sterling, Colorado.

Having spent so many years traveling, with a new location every few years, Lee decided to find a location where he and his family could enjoy home life. This he has accomplished at Buffalo, Wyoming where he is General Manager of the Johnson County Co-operative Association. They have lived at this location for seven years and expect to retire there.

In this beautiful spot, at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains, is found a sportsman's paradise. In spite of Lee's partial disability from an arthritic condition in one hip, he still enjoys to hunt and fish whenever his health permits.

He, like his three brothers, was from a little fellow, always a lover of sports. He started playing baseball when so small that he could scarcely hold the catcher's mitt. This interest continued up through the grade school and through high school. He played four years of baseball, football and basketball while in high school. He was also very active in track events. Following his many sports activities while in school, he continued with baseball while he was on the Cummins farm. He found time to play semi-professional ball for twelve years before finally hanging up his suit and glove. He still retains his love for all sports although a little too old to actually participate. He loves it so much that he still takes part by managing one of the City League Teams in Buffalo, Wyoming. He is also one of a committee of seven in charge of the "Little League" in Buffalo.

He and his wife are both members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church and Lee is active in Boy Scout work and Little League Baseball besides many other varied activities.

The children of Lee and Hattie Cummins are:

1. Harold Tressler Cummins.
2. Marlis Marie Cummins
3. Lee Edward Cummins, Jr.

One child has been born to Lee and Helen Marie, his second wife, namely:

1. Carey Lee Cummins.

HAROLD TRESSLER CUMMINS

Harold Tressler was born November 21, 1919. He attended the elementary school at Putney and Huron, South Dakota and high school at Huron in that state. He also attended Huron College for one year.

Harold was inducted into the United States Army on November 13, 1941, was overseas from July, 1944 through November, 1945 and became a technical sergeant. His unit was 127th Anti Aircraft Artillery A.M. Battalion. He was with the 9th U. S. Army under General Simpson. He was

discharged from the service on November 28, 1945. For five years Harold was employed by the American Smelting and Refining Company of Los Angeles, California and is presently employed by Mahl Steel Company of Los Angeles. Harold was married on November 8, 1943 to Evelyn G. Ritchie. Her parents were John and Agnes Ritchie who were born in Ireland. They came to America while they were both single. Two children have been born to them as issue of the marriage, namely:

1. Richard Alan born November 18, 1946 at Los Angeles, California.

2. Donna Jean born May 18, 1952 at Los Angeles, California.

MARLIS MARIE CUMMINS

Marlis Marie was born December 11, 1920 and married Norvin Richard Thorsness, nicknamed "Bud", on November 27, 1942.

Norvin's father was Joseph Andrew Thorsness of Norweigan descent and Norvin's mother was Tobena Kathrena Christensen of Danish descent. Norvin was born at Huron, South Dakota on July 11, 1919. He is a purchasing agent for Standard Oil Products Co., Inc. of Los Angeles, California.

Marlis and Norvin are much interested in church work.

Marlis attended the grade schools at Putney and Huron, South Dakota, the high school at Huron and the business college in that city. She did secretarial work in Huron and is now doing the same type of work in Los Angeles.

Two children have been born to Marlis and Norvin, namely:

1. Terry Lee on November 11, 1945 and
2. Judy Kay on March 13, 1950.

LEE EDWARD CUMMINS, JR.

Lee Edward was born September 11, 1931 at Huron, South Dakota. The family moved to Sioux City, Iowa where he started his elementary schooling which he completed in Los Angeles, California. He graduated with honors from Manual Arts High School, Los Angeles June, 1945. He had one year at the University of California, Southern Branch, at Los Angeles and went into the Navy. In the Navy he served as a Dental Technician First Class Petty Officer, toured Japan, Korea, Hawaii and the West Coast U.S.A. On complet-

ing his military service in the Navy he returned to the University and finished requirements for his dental course. He is now studying dentistry at the University of Southern California, which course he expects to complete in 1960.

He received many awards for his many activities in the academic field, in high school and in college also for his athletic achievements. He was a three year letter man in high school and one year in U. C. L. A. He won the alumni scholarship at U. C. L. A. in 1949, 1955 and 1956 and the U. S. C. dental school scholarship in 1956. He is a member of P. S. I. Omega Dental Fraternity 1956 to 1960. In 1958 he was elected to Alpha Tau Epsilon Dental Honor. He has been Vice President of the U. S. C. dental school student body in 1958.

He married Jean Barrett Asbury on March 29, 1958. Jean was born on March 12, 1933 at Los Angeles, California. After her elementary education she spent one year in Los Angeles Business College and became a secretary. Her father's name was Irvin Barrett Asbury who was born October 1, 1888 at Lawson, Missouri. He was a food broker. Her mother was Bess Cox Mathers who was born at Dundee, Scotland on February 16, 1896.

CAREY LEE CUMMINS

Carey Lee was born August 15, 1945. He lives with his parents at Buffalo, Wyoming and is a student of the public schools in that place.

Chapter 12

RAY EUGENE CUMMINS

Ray Eugene was born on a farm near the town of Putney, Brown County, South Dakota, on August 19, 1895. Ray was the sixth child born to Carey E. Cummins and Lettie M. Cummins.

The family lived on the farm until 1909, when they moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota. Ray and his brothers and sisters all received their early education in the country schools in that community.

Ray has always liked to tell about his youth on the farm and has always taken great pride in telling how he first started to operate machinery propelled

by horses when he reached the age of nine years. He particularly likes to tell about when the family moved off of the farm in the year 1909 and he broke up eighty acres of sod land with a walking plow pulled by five horses, prepared the land and seeded it to flax. Ray has always claimed that it was the biggest flax crop ever grown by any one in the State of South Dakota.

At Aberdeen, Ray attended high school and graduated in 1914. While in high school, he played four years of football, two years on the basketball team, which went through two seasons of basketball losing only one game and was the recognized state champion in each of the two years, he also played baseball and was on the track team. He was on the debating team of the high school for two years and was awarded a medal for the best individual debater in the school. After graduating from high school, he attended the State Normal School at Aberdeen for a part of one year. The fall of 1915 Ray came to St. Paul and entered the St. Paul College of Law. He has always given his older brother, Carl W. Cummins, credit for giving him the inspiration to study law. His brother, Carl, at that time had become an outstanding lawyer in St. Paul. After working his way through the first year of law school, Ray was taken into the office of the firm in which his brother, Carl, was a member and worked as a law clerk while he was attending school.

In Ray's third year of law school and before the end of the term, he volunteered to enter the service of the United States Army in World War No. 1 and the law school graduated him in April instead of requiring him to wait the rest of the term. Ray served in the Armed Forces until the armistice in 1918, and at that time was ready to be commissioned. He was then in the 16th Company central officers training camp. He was offered the chance to take a commission in the Reserves or receive his discharge. He accepted the latter.

While in the officers training camp at Camp Lee, Virginia, he received the Entered Apprentice Degree in Masonry in a Lodge at Petersburg, Virginia. The same was conferred at the request of Braden Lodge No. 168 in St. Paul. He completed his Blue Lodge degrees in St. Paul. Ray became a member of the Scottish Rite bodies in 1920 and became a member of Osman Temple. Ray was elected Master of Braden Lodge No. 168 of St. Paul and served as its Master in 1938. In 1940, he was appointed Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Minnesota. Ray was elected Grand Master for the year 1949. During his year as Grand Master, he devoted at least 75 per cent of his time to the duties of that office. At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in 1950, the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge, in speaking of Ray's year as Grand Master, said among other things:

"He is to be commended for his untiring devotion to duty; and we are in debt to him for an administration which did much for the good of Masonry. His work was well and faithfully performed, and he richly deserves the plaudits of his brethren."

Since completing his year as Grand Master, he has in every year except one been appointed as a member of the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

In 1950 at the Grand Masters' Conference, Ray was asked to give a paper on Masonic matters which was well received and was asked to preside over the meeting of the Masonic Service Association, which he did.

In 1950, Ray was elected to the Board of Directors of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and has been re-elected each time his original term expired. He is still a member of that Board, which meets annually in Washington on February 22nd, Washington's birthday. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota Masonic Home.

After Ray's return from the Service in 1918, he promptly continued the practice of the law with the firm of Morphy, Bradford & Cummins. He became a member of that firm, and upon the death of Mr. Morphy and Mr. Bradford, Mr. Carl W. Cummins and Ray practiced law together under the firm name of Cummins & Cummins for several years. Theodore Christianson, Jr., who became one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, became a member of that firm and the firm for some years practiced under the name of Cummins, Cummins and Christianson. The firm name now is Cummins, Cummins, Hammond and Ames and there are eight partners, Carl W. Cummins, Sr., Ray E. Cummins, Linus J. Hammond, Reginald Ames, Carl W. Cummins, Jr., William P. O'Brien, G. William Smith and Robert W. Gislason. The firm's offices are at 330 Minnesota Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ray has always said that he especially enjoyed his work as a trial lawyer. He is still very actively engaged in the practice of law, but of late years has turned over to the younger members of the firm much of the trial work which he at one time handled.

In 1936 the Charter of the City of St. Paul was amended to provide for the selection of the Chief of Police by a Police Commission. This Charter amendment was brought about by the people of St. Paul because of the unfavorable publicity that St. Paul had received with reference to the prevalence of crime in the City of St. Paul. The Mayor of St. Paul at that time requested

Ray to become a member of that Police Commission. Ray accepted the appointment. The Commission recommended to the Commissioner of Public Safety that Clint Hackert be named Chief of Police. He was so named and served with distinction until his death. Since that time St. Paul has gained a national reputation as being one of the best policed cities in the United States. Ray has always taken great pride in the part that he had as a member of the Commission in bringing about the organization of a competent, honest Police Department in the City of St. Paul.

On September 21, 1920, at St. Paul, Minnesota, Ray married Ida Mae Espeseth. Her nick-name is Espe. Ida Mae Espeseth was born October 7, 1890, at Eden, Minnesota. Her father, Gulbrand Espeseth, and her mother, Ingaborg Higdem Espeseth, were married at Valdris, Norway. Her father died in 1900 at Olga, Minnesota, and her mother died October 8, 1908, at Olga, Minnesota.

Ida Mae Espeseth's elementary and high school education was received at Fosston, Minnesota. She graduated from St. Lukes Hospital, School of Nursing, in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1917, and took the necessary examinations to be enrolled as a registered nurse. After becoming a registered nurse, she did special nursing in hospitals and in the care of private patients. She continued such activity until her marriage. Since her marriage she has given much of her time in parent-teachers work and civic enterprises in the City of St. Paul.

Ray's principal hobby is fishing and he spends as much of his time as possible during the summer months at his lake home at Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minnesota. He is a very enthusiastic baseball and football fan. He particularly likes to follow the fortunes of Minnesota's Golden Gophers and the St. Paul Baseball team.

Two children have been born to Ray and Espe, namely:

1. Jean Espe Cummins.
2. Doris Rae Cummins.

JEAN ESPE CUMMINS

Jean Espe Cummins was born July 17, 1924, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She attended the public schools in the City of St. Paul and in the eighth grade at Maria Sanford Junior High School, she was awarded the American Legion of Honor Medal for having been determined to be the most outstanding student in her school. She graduated from Derham Hall High School at St. Catherine's

College in 1941 and from Carleton College at Northfield, Minnesota, in the year 1945. In the year 1944 Jean was selected from Carleton College students to membership in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities" and was so designated in the published edition of that organization for the year 1944 and 1945. After graduation from Carleton College she attended the University of Minnesota and gained her Master's Degree in Medical Social Work in 1949, in which work she engaged up to the time of her marriage, and still does, when requested so to do, assist in social work at some of the public institutions in the City of St. Paul.

In 1949 Jean prepared an article on the subject "The Family as a Factor in Epileptic Social Adjustment", which was presented at a staff meeting of department heads at the University of Minnesota. This article was published in the November, 1949, issue of Journal of Social Case Work, and Jean received many compliments for her article. On that general subject she prepared her thesis for her Master's Degree.

While in school, she was actively engaged in high school, at Carleton College and the University of Minnesota in all school activities.

She was married to G. William Smith (born August 24, 1924) on October 7, 1950, and now lives at Dellwood Peninsula, White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

G. William Smith is the son of Reuben A. Smith and Laura Vinkemier Smith, who were married on October 16, 1915, at Shakopee, Minnesota, and now are both living and reside at Spokane, Washington. Bill's early education was in the public schools at St. Paul, including Central High School in St. Paul, Minnesota, and he graduated from Central High School in Superior, Wisconsin, in the year 1941. He graduated from the St. Paul College of Law in 1954 and was admitted to the Bar of Minnesota in that year and has been engaged in the practice of law with the firm in which his father-in-law is a member. Bill was engaged in military service from 1941 to 1945, being a member of the United States Naval Air Corps.

Four children have been born to Jean and Bill:

1. William Craig Smith, born April 1, 1952.
2. Gary Cummins Smith, born December 4, 1954.
3. Mark Robert Smith and David Ray Smith, twin boys, born February 15, 1957.

DORIS RAE CUMMINS

Doris Rae Cummins was born April 21, 1927, at St. Paul, Minnesota. She attended grade school and high school in St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated from Central High School in St. Paul in 1945, and attended the University of Minnesota through 1947. While in school she took an active part in all school activities. Upon leaving the University, she engaged in both secretarial work and as a dental assistant until her marriage.

She married Peter G. Spindler (born July 14, 1926) on September 8, 1948, at St. Paul, Minnesota. Peter Spindler's parents were Gordon Edwin Spindler, born June 1, 1901, and Janet Weber Spindler, born July 28, 1902. Peter's parents were married on June 22, 1925. His mother is living in St. Paul, Minnesota; his father died May 21, 1955. Peter graduated from Central High School in St. Paul in 1944 and from Macalester College in business administration in 1950. During World War II, from June, 1944, to June 1946, Peter was in the U. S. Naval Reserve and saw active duty in the South Pacific. After Peter's graduation from Macalester College, he for a time was engaged in the investment business and for several years last past has been employed by Cargill, Incorporated, being presently employed in the Chicago office of that company.

Doris since her marriage has been an active leader in parent-teachers work and in the community life and in connection with civic projects wherever she lives. Peter and Doris presently are residing in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

There has been born to Peter and Doris one child:

1. Jeffrey Ray, born April 20, 1951, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Chapter 13

GRACE LETTIE CUMMINS

Grace Lettie was born on the Cummins' farm at Putney, South Dakota on March 13, 1904, the last of seven children.

Grace entered first grade at age six in the Garfield grammar school where she was a serious student, making good grades except for music.

After four years at Garfield grammer school Grace finished two more years of school at the Lincoln elementary school which stood beside the high school. When she was ready to enter the seventh grade her parents returned to the farm and so she had the experience of attending a two-room country school and of having her first man teacher.

From about seven years of age Grace studied piano. As she grew older she was enrolled in the Sherwood Music Course from Chicago, taking her lessons, including theory, composition and history of music from Professor Walther Pfitzner in Aberdeen. She played in several recitals. Although this opportunity increased her appreciation of music, she never became an accomplished pianist.

When she was ready for high school the family moved back to Aberdeen and Grace graduated from the Aberdeen high school in 1918. While she was in high school the family built a new three story stucco home. The main difference in the new home from the old was that it was stucco in finish, had stippled oil painted walls, sun parlor complete with reed furniture and oak Victrola. There was a cistern below the attached garage and a sleeping porch above it.

She was a high school senior when her father died and this changed the family living plan. She and her mother moved to an apartment and she attended the State Teachers' College for her freshman college work. The following summer she and her mother went to Bellingham, Washington. Grace spent the next three years at the University of Washington from which she graduated in 1926 with a B. S. degree in Home Economics, having specialized in Institutional Management. Her social sorority was Phi Omega Pi. Honor organizations were Sigma Xi and Omicron Nu. She served as house manager of her sorority and President of the Home Economics Club.

The summer following her graduation she spent working in a model cafeteria sponsored by the National Restaurant Association at Colorado Springs, Colorado. In the fall of 1926 she accepted a position as Assistant Manager, Eat Shops, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota, where she remained until February 1, 1927.

Upon terminating her employment she returned to Bellingham, Washington to prepare for her marriage to Harry Albert Hanson, culminating a University of Washington romance. The wedding was delayed until March 12, 1927 because Harry was ship wrecked off Kodiak Island in Alaska while on a scientific investigation of the halibut fish and their habits. Her husband, Harry, was born in Duluth, Minnesota, and was one of a family of eight children. He was of Norwegian descent, his father having come to the United States at the age of eight from Norway and his mother having been born in Wisconsin of Norwegian parents.

Harry's profession, that of fisheries biologist, kept the family on the move for some years. The first summer of their marriage (1927) was spent on the lakes of northern Minnesota where Harry was doing research for the Minnesota Department of Fish and Game. Fall found Grace and Harry at the Marine Biological Station, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Harry went to Wildwood, New Jersey to begin the summer's field work for the United States Bureau of Fisheries. In October the family returned to Woods Hole for the winter.

In the spring of 1929 they went to Hampton, Virginia for Harry to begin his summer work. This was a big adjustment for the family. Housing was difficult to locate, the climate was unpleasant to the northerners and a great difference from New Englanders was found in the attitudes of the people. Grace and her daughter, Gwen, spent the summer of 1929 at the home of Harry's parents and in October, 1929 the family were reunited at Woods Hole where they spent the winter.

Harry was transferred to Lorain, Ohio in the spring of 1930. On August 12th of that year their son Harry Albert, Jr. was born. Just before Christmas another move was made, this time to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In the late spring of 1931 Harry was transferred to Washington, D. C. To avoid the extreme heat of Washington the family again went to Harry's parents' home in northern Minnesota. In the fall Harry decided that he did not want to remain in administrative work and resigned from his position to go to the University of Minnesota. The family joined him in Minneapolis

and in June, 1932 he received his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota.

The family went west in the fall in time for Harry to enroll at the University of Washington. Grace and the children stayed with Grace's mother and sister, Nora, in Bellingham until June, 1933 when they moved to Seattle.

In September another milestone was reached when Gwen enrolled in school at the McDonald Elementary school in Seattle. At about this time the children had the usual childhood diseases and more serious, ear infections and a broken elbow for Harry, Jr. About this time Grace became interested in the work of the Parent Teacher Association, first serving as President of the Grammar School P.T.A. and later as All City Chairman for the annual Back Yard Playground Project.

Several summers were spent on the beach at Suquamish while Harry commuted to his work in Seattle with the U. S. Forest Service.

Harry accepted a position with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries at Stanford University in Palo Alto in 1934 and the family moved to Palo Alto. It was at this time that they finally bought furniture, having become so tired of furnished houses, and they also acquired their first automobile.

After two years in Palo Alto another move was made to the Baird Salmon Hatchery near Redding, California and then in March, 1942 to Red Bluff, California where for the first time roots were put down. A home was planned and built and the family entered into the life of the community.

In the fall of 1942 Grace became employed as manager in the Red Bluff Office of Price Administration where she remained until the close of World War II. She then worked for a short while for the Farmers Home Administration, the California State Department of Employment and then accepted a position as a Social Worker in the Tehama County Welfare Department. She is now the supervisor of the Shasta County Welfare Department. Harry at present is a supervisor of the Shasta Area in connection with the State Wild Life Service.

Grace and her family joined the Presbyterian Church in Red Bluff where all have taken an active part. Harry served as an Elder in the church for a six year term.

Grace served as President of the Red Bluff Business and Professional Women's Club in 1953 and held a district office in that organization. She is

a member of the American Association of University Women and served as Treasurer for two years.

The family have been active in Masonic organizations since living in Red Bluff. Harry was High Priest of Royal Arch, Commander of Red Bluff Commandery and Worthy Patron of Vesper Chapter No. 20, Order of the Eastern Star, Red Bluff, California. In 1955 and 1956 Grace served as Worthy Matron in Red Bluff. They have continued their Masonic interest since moving to Redding California.

Two children have been born to Grace and Harry as follows:

1. Gwen Harriet Hanson
2. Harry Albert Hanson, Jr.

GWEN HARRIET HANSON

Gwen Harriet was born March 27, 1928. She moved about the country with her family and attended the public schools at the various places when she became of school age. Gwen graduated from Red Bluff High School in 1946 and the University of California at Berkeley in 1950 having majored in English. Gwen taught in grade school for sometime.

Gwen married Ernest Donald Reichert. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Reichert of Berkeley, California. Gwen and Ernest were married in the Red Bluff Presbyterian Church on January 21, 1951. Donald is an engineer. Three children have been born to them, namely:

1. Susan Donelle born March 25, 1953
2. Ann Loraine born February 16, 1955
3. Douglas Donald was born February 13, 1958.

HARRY ALBERT HANSON, JR.

Harry Albert, Jr. was born August 12, 1930. Upon reaching school age he attended public schools at the places where his family lived. Harry graduated from Red Bluff High School in 1948 and the University of California at Berkeley in June, 1952 where he majored in Political Science. In June, 1955 Harry graduated from Boldt Law School connected with the University of California at Berkeley and was admitted to the Bar of California at a later date. At the present time Harry is judicial officer in the United States Navy stationed at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington.

Harry married Elsie Terry Ponvert on September 22, 1956. Elsie Terry was born November 26, 1936 and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Ponvert of Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. A son was born to Harry and Elsie Terry, namely:

1. Harry Albert Hanson, III born June 29, 1957.

Chapter 14

THE CUMMINS IN DAKOTA

Through the greatest portion of this narrative the history of the Cummins family has been closely connected with the early Dakota Territorial days and later the State of South Dakota. Comment has been made from time to time about the part the Cummins played in early Dakota history but the connection between the Cummins' and Dakota seems of such importance that a more detailed story should be written. With this in mind the writer, with some fear of repetition, will give the important events of those early days.

In the east, Dakota Territory which had been carved out of the Louisiana Purchase in 1861, was generally known as the land of the Sioux Indian and the buffalo. In 1889 the territory was divided into North and South Dakota and our family were in South Dakota.

The great abundance of natural grass on the prairies made the land the feeding ground for the buffalo. Those who saw the well grassed prairies in the 1870's and 1880's believed that once the sod was turned a great grain producing country would result. The land was level, there were no rocks or trees to be removed. The plow and the harrow, in the opinion of the observers, would produce a most suitable area for new farms and new homes. It was going to take courage and stout hearts to conquer the prairie land with the sod to turn, the blizzards to endure, the destruction of crops by the grasshoppers, the storms and the loneliness for the old home. Carey and Lettie Cummins had the qualities necessary and succeeded in raising a family of seven children and in contributing a fair share of their time and energy to the development of a new community.

In the spring of 1881 Carey E. Cummins and Lettie M., his wife, and Carey's father, Jeptha Cummins, and family decided to make the pilgrimage to Dakota Territory.

The things that were thought necessary for the new home were loaded into freight cars. Two yokes of oxen and a team of roan horses named Dan and Mage, were bought purposely for the new venture from near Owasso. Old Dan was remembered in later years for his ability to turn the knob on the barn door and let himself and the other horses into the barn from the pasture.

In the two cars bound for the west, besides the horses and oxen, were cows, pigs, chickens, two wagons, tools, machinery, and the household articles including a stove. One of the cars was shared with Benjamin Franklin Dickerson, brother of Grandmother, Phebe Dickerson Cummins. A third car contained the family belongings of the Hayden family.

The immigrant party consisted of others besides the Haydens and the Cummins'. In the Hayden family were Mr. Hayden, his mother, Mrs. Walker, and his two sons, Frank and Charlie. He had left his wife, a daughter Belle, a son Will and another daughter in Michigan. Mrs. Hayden, Will and Belle came to Dakota in the fall of the same year.

The Cummins family consisted of Grandfather, Jeptha Cummins, Grandmother, Phebe Cummins, and their daughters, Ada and Clara, and their son, Alva, and Carey and his wife, Lettie. Elmer and the older children Myra and Byron stayed in Michigan.

In the party were Benjamin Franklin Dickerson and several others. A Mr. Ruel, his son George and a Mr. Freeman joined the party at Lansing. They were from Fowlerville. Still later, a Mr. Hill fell in with the party. George Ruel was a tailor and made the covers for the two Cummins' wagons. The third wagon was uncovered.

The plan was that father, Frank Hayden and Uncle Frank were to go with the freight cars and the rest of the party would start later to go by passenger train.

The freight cars reached Milbank, the first cars to get through that spring. The trip was uneventful. The stock were in good shape. The passenger party left on April 19, 1881 and their trip was uneventful until they reached Minnesota. Of course there were no sleepers so the trip was not easy. At that time the Milwaukee Railroad crossed Minnesota from Hastings to Ortonville. The winter had been heavy and the spring thaws had filled the streams and lakes to overflowing. There was danger everywhere to bridges. At one place the bridge was shaky, but men held it from swerving by ropes from each side. The train had two engines, one at each end so if one started down the other

might pull the train back. All bridges were lighted up with lanterns at night. In spite of all the difficulties, due to floods and weak bridges, the train crossed from Ortonville, Minnesota to Big Stone City in Dakota Territory.

Big Stone City was full of people. The party was able to secure the use of a building ordinarily used for storage as a means of shelter. The women started temporary housekeeping, as women from all time have done, by getting dinner. They unpacked the dishes that they had with them.

The men of the party were concerned with the whereabouts of their goods and the three men with them. They were also hungry, so went fishing as hungry men at all times have been prone to do.

While the women were busy unpacking and the men were fishing in Big Stone Lake, the young people were having their good time as young people the world over have been prone to do. Aunt Ada had her autograph album and got the autographs of Charlie Hayden and George Ruel, which she still had at the time of her death.

Mother told a story about Mr. Giles, the station agent, at Big Stone. He became interested, as might any young man after spending a lonely winter in a remote spot, with the two young women of the party, Ada and Lettie. He took the girls to be Mrs. Walker's daughters, and she did not tell him anything different. Lettie was a brunette with snapping black eyes as all her children remember. Ada had red hair and medium brown eyes. Mr. Giles said to Mrs. Walker that he was crazy about the black-eyed girl and would like to get acquainted with her if they were going to stay in that part of the country. Mrs. Walker did not give away the fact that Lettie was married but she told Mr. Giles he could not have one of her girls. Later, Mr. Giles was station agent at Groton.

The men were successful in catching a twenty-five pound cat fish. The party had dinner and through inquiry from the station agent they were told that some freight cars had gone through before the floods and washed out the bridge. They thought that would probably be at Milbank. The men thought the description identified their cars. Mr. Hayden and grandfather decided to go to Milbank by foot. It was necessary to cross the Whetstone River. The bridge was extremely weak and the crossing dangerous but the two men were undaunted and crept across the bridge on their hands and knees and walked on to Milbank, a distance of twelve miles. At Milbank they found their sons and Uncle Frank at work on a shanty. Some of the lumber had been unloaded and the stove set up. The stock had been unloaded and were in a

yard. At Milbank the men unloaded a wagon and with the team they drove back to the Whetstone River where they ferried the women, children and trunks across the river in small row boats. Then they drove back to Milbank. Here was a stop for the time being.

Conditions were primitive. Father, mother, Aunt Ada and Aunt Clara slept on the floor in one of the freight cars. There were still snow banks as high as the freight cars so it was very cold.

Rev. Hayden's trip to Dakota in the summer of 1880 had decided him that Columbia, the county seat of Brown County, was the place to go. The men were anxious to get to the land office and so suggested that they go on ahead and then return. Grandmother said, "No", so down came the shanty and plans were made to go on by team and wagon, for there were as yet no train accommodations beyond Milbank although the track was laid to Bristol. The goods were left for future hauling. Arrangements were made to have the pigs and chickens cared for at Milbank.

Sunday of the new week was spent at Waubay, which was little more than a name. The day was spent in a sod, one room house. Grandmother rested but baked bread. It was considered to be a day of rest.

On Monday the party started for Columbia. The Ruels and Mr. Freeman left the party at Milbank and took up claims later near Aberdeen. Mother did not remember where her party spent Monday and Tuesday nights. According to father's recollection, as he gave it to the writer of a State Memorial and Biographical Record of Central South Dakota, they reached their ultimate location on May 3rd, which was Tuesday, in 1881 but grandfather said in a letter written to his parents in Michigan that they reached west Riverside Township on May 4th. The latter seems more likely when the distance from Waubay to West Riverside is considered. Mother was sure that Sunday had been spent at Waubay. In any case they reached the home of the Archie McKinnon family on a forenoon early in May 1881 but it was still cold even if it was spring.

Mr. McKinnon advised the party not to go further. It would be impossible, he told them, to cross the James River in order to get to Columbia. The only bridge at Yorkville was not safe because of the high water. The big slough, which was to play an important part in the lives of many people in the community, and still does, was full. Anyway, Mr. McKinnon said the land is better in this community than around Columbia. Time proved that he was right.

The women and children were invited into the sod shanty and the men went to find Mr. Hardy Campbell who was the United States land agent for the district. The men had been in an unnecessary hurry to get land. They found themselves to be the first in the region that spring. Grandfather wrote to his parents that there was plenty of land in the township on their arrival but it was soon taken.

Carey E. Cummins located a preemption on the southeast corner of Section 15, Township 124 North of Range 61 West of the 5th principal Meridian. He built a shanty upon this quarter to conform with the requirements of the preemption law, put down a well and created genuine signs of habitation. Father located his homestead on the northeast quarter of Section 17, Township 124 North Range 61 West of the 5th principal Meridian. Father moved the shanty which he had built on the preemption to the homestead where it was encased in sod and became a typically South Dakota sod house, and he also built a barn out of poles cut on the James River and marsh hay cut in the swamps. Jeptha Cummins located his preemption on the northwest quarter of Section 22 in the same Township and Range. Jeptha Cummins purchased homestead rights to the northeast quarter of Section 22 in the same Township and Range.

Later grandfather, through purchase, received title to the Southwest quarter of Section 22 as a tree claim which he sold before his son, Carey, moved on his farm.

Grandfather put up a shanty on his preemption but the family did not live in it long for grandfather had brought lumber from Michigan. As soon as he could get carpenters a house was built which is the west wing of the present farm house. The shanty became the basis for a straw covered barn.

The house was later moved one-half mile east on the homestead.

The Carey Cummins' began housekeeping in their shanty with very meager equipment and without a chair to sit on. Their shanty, as already stated, was moved to their homestead.

Grandfather gave Carey a team of oxen which furnished the necessary power to turn the sod so that crops could be planted. The crops were not always good but progress was made. In these days threshing was done with horse power.

The family saw the Great Northern Railway go through the area and Village of Putney built. In the village was built a methodist Church and the

Riverside School, which had been located in the northwest corner of Section 16, was moved into the village.

Grandfather added a wing to the east of the house in 1886. The Carey Cummins family remodeled the house in 1892. It exists in that form today which is shown in the picture.

Pioneer days in South Dakota passed quickly because railroads were quickly built and contacts with the East were established.

The last four of the Cummins' children were born after territorial days.

Life in South Dakota changed with the years. The home became more attractive with newer furnishings and the work on the farm was made easier with new and improved machinery.

Just as the oxen were supplanted by horses, the horses in turn were supplanted by the automobile. Gradually power driven machinery took the place of human and horse driven equipment.

In 1909 the Carey Cummins family became weary of the great amount of work to be done on the farm and moved to Aberdeen. They also wished for better schools for the younger children, Lulu, Lee, Ray and Grace.

Mother fitted in readily with urban life but father found it difficult to find enough to do to keep himself busy. After a few years he resumed the operation of the farm with the aid of hired help.

When World War I came the family moved back onto the farm. A new barn was built and the old buildings were repaired.

Again the family grew weary of farm life and returned to Aberdeen. Lee had married and took over the responsibility for operating the farm.

Father enjoyed the Methodist Church and the Twentieth Century Club. He was a great reader so managed to keep himself occupied. He became caretaker of the Methodist Church and in so doing burned his hand on the furnace and developed septicemia which caused his death.

A new house had been built in 1920 but after father's death mother with Grace moved into an apartment and Grace went to the Normal School.

In 1933 mother and Grace went to Bellingham, Washington. Grace went to the University of Washington.

Mother adjusted herself to her life in Bellingham and made many friends.

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